Burton Water Cooperative
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Consumer Confidence Report for 2025

Purpose

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 requires that all water systems provide their customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. Its purpose is to assure customers that all federal and state requirements for water quality are met, and that their water is safe to drink.

Management

The Burton Water Cooperative is customer owned and governed by an elected board of directors. Please contact board@burtonwater.org for policy and governance questions or the office at the number above for billing or operational questions or (206)775-5667 for emergencies.

Source of Water

The Burton Water aquifer is approximately 125 acres of fine sand bounded by clay below. Our well field is located at 11611 SW 232nd. It consists of (2) 3.5 foot diameter concrete tile wells, (1) 12 inch diameter steel well, (17) 1 ½ inch pipe wells (well points), and (4) drilled and steel cased wells, all varying in depth between 18 and 40 feet.

Source water assessment

We routinely have our water tested at Eurofins Washington in Burlington WA for coliform bacteria. We submit two samples from various locations monthly. Coliform bacteria is an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small organisms) that should not be present.

Contaminants (This section provided by the Washington State Department of Health) Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Definitions (This section provided by the Washington State Department of Health)

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. (The MRDL set by DOH is 4.0 mg/L. The chlorine level in water we distribute to customers meets the DOH CT-6 standard, which results in a chlorine level at most customer taps of .4-.6 mg/L, roughly one tenth of the maximum allowed.)

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Burton Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing for lead in your water, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The copper and lead content of our water source is very low, in the last test lead was not detected and copper was 0.033 mg/L.

Water Quality Test Results

Lead and Copper: We are required to sample 10 homes for lead and copper every three years. The results of these tests have all met current Health Department standards. The next lead and copper samples will be taken in July 2027.

Bacteria: We sample monthly for total coliform (E. coli like) and E. coli bacteria, an indicator of and potential disease-causing bacteria in water. In and of itself total coliform is generally not a cause of disease. All samples taken in 2025 were negative for total coliform and E. coli.

Other testing: We routinely sample for many other potential contaminants, as required by the Department of Health. The results of these tests have all been satisfactory and are available to our members upon request or on our website burtonwater.org. The hardness of the water (as Calcium Carbonate) ranges between 57 and 74 mg/L, which is the low end of “moderately hard”.

Nitrates: As most of you know, Misty Isle Farms owned the property directly north of our well field, and farming activities there, starting in the 90’s, resulted in an increase in nitrate levels in our water. In recent years, the intensity of farming activity in our watershed has decreased. This appears to be a trend, and, as nitrates present due to plowing, fertilizing and manure are washed out of the system (and not replaced), we see a gradual lessening of this contaminant in our water. Burton Water Company monitors annually for nitrates and we are happy to say that our latest result (Apr 2026) was .88 mg/L, down from 2.0 mg/L in 2018. We are very encouraged by this result and feel this makes a strong case against farming in our watershed in order to protect water quality. The MCL for nitrates in drinking water is 10 mg/L.

More test data: We are in the process of uploading our tests results to our website, they will be available here: https://burtonwater.org/resources/water-quality/

Privacy Policy

We will under no circumstances, release, give away or sell any information about our members. Your contact information will only be used for co-op purposes.

Please Note

As population and housing need rises in our region, there is growing pressure to provide housing on Vashon and we have received increasing numbers of calls regarding water availability for accessory dwelling units. An accessory dwelling unit requires a separate water service.

Burton Water Cooperative’s authorized number of connections are fully allocated, and we cannot provide new connections at this time.

Billing

Please send payments to: PO Box 1938, Vashon, WA 98070. As always, you may still drop cash or check payments off at Harbor Mercantile (the Burton store), you can also pay online and setup text bill alerts as well as autopay at our payment system here: https://new.nexbillpay.net/burtonwcwa/BillPay/SignIn For billing and account questions please call the office (206)463-0005 or email operator@burtonwater.org.