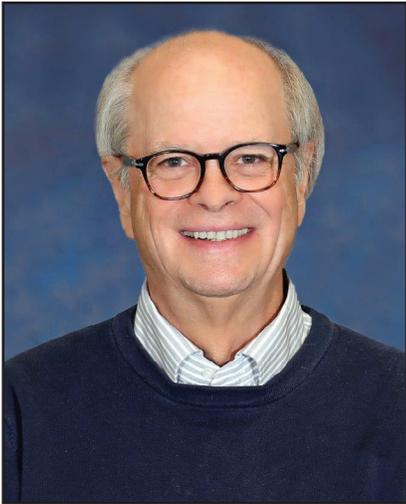


THE PIPELINE

Summer 2025



Commissioner Chuck Clarke

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

What Your Utility Bill Pays For

The **Woodinville Water District (WWD)** provides water and sewer services to about 30 square miles of our community. This includes the City of Woodinville and parts of Bothell, Kirkland, Redmond, as well as areas in unincorporated Snohomish and north King County.

WWD is focused on providing essential water and sewer utility services to our customers at the lowest responsible rates. Since it is not always intuitive what utility bills pay for, this article is aimed at providing information on what utility bills pay for and also shares information about past and future rate trends. Visit woodinvillewater.com for detailed information.

As based on general use patterns, an average WWD household water bill is around \$75/month. On this average bill, about \$18 (24%) pays for water purchased from the City of Seattle's water supply; around \$27 (36%) pays for operation, maintenance and construction of water infrastructure; and about \$30 (40%) covers other costs including billing, customer service, and general utility support functions.

A typical WWD sewer household bill is about \$93/month. Of this bill, around \$58 (62%) pays for wastewater treatment services purchased from King County; \$16 (18%) pays for operation, maintenance, and construction of sewer infrastructure; and about \$19 (20%) pays for other costs including billing, customer service, and general utility support functions.

Despite inflationary pressures on all costs the WWD has worked to minimize utility rate increases for our customers. Thanks to these efforts,

Continued on next page...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commissioner's Corner.....	1-2
Application for Low-Income Discount Rates	2
2024 Water Quality Report	3-5
WaterSmartCustomer Portal.....	6
Lead Service Line Inventory Project	6-7
Call 811 Before You Dig.....	7
Let Us Know About Life Support Issues	7

**2024
Water Quality
Report Inside!**

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm. The public is welcome to join the meeting in-person at the District Meeting Room or attend by phone via Microsoft Teams. Meeting call-in information is posted on the agenda that can be found on our webpage the Friday prior to each meeting at woodinvillewater.com.

WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT

Providing safe and reliable service with responsible rates since 1959.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

continued from page 1...

the average household WWD water bill has only increased from about \$67 to \$75 over the last ten years, which represents an average increase of approximately \$0.89/year (1.33%/year). This increase has two components, the increased amount paid to Seattle for water (\$0.47/ year, 3.70% year) and the increases needed by WWD to cover the costs of providing water services (\$0.42/year, 0.77%/year). Over the last 10 years, the average household WWD sewer bill has increased from \$69.18 to \$92.74 per month. As with water bills, this has two components: the increase driven by King County sewer treatment costs (\$1.61/year, 3.83%/year) and the increases needed by WWD to provide sewer services (\$0.75/year, 2.74%/year).

Looking to the future, for water bills, the main drivers of costs are: investments to repair, maintain, and build infrastructure; investments needed to protect water service reliability from risks such as major earthquakes; ongoing cybersecurity improvements; economic impacts like inflation on construction and operational costs; and potential future increases in the cost of water purchased from Seattle.

Future Sewer bills will also be influenced by needed investments for infrastructure repair and maintenance; investments required to protect sewer services from risks such as major earthquakes; and economic uncertainties like inflation. However, the most significant risk for future sewer bill increases is tied to King County's increasing sewer treatment costs, which are currently being forecast to more than double in the next 5-10 years. While these increases are outside of WWD's direct control, WWD is working with other

regional utility service providers to communicate our concerns about increased costs and to suggest cost saving efficiencies to the County.

In addition to the rate cost drivers described above, future utility rates may also be influenced by franchise fees and utility taxes that can be charged by the underlying jurisdictions that WWD serves (cities and counties) resulting in WWD having to pass on these costs to the customers that live in those jurisdictions.

On top of these rate drivers, due to a recent Court decision, there will also be a new King County rental fee that WWD will need to pay to the County for WWD water and sewer infrastructure that is located within the County Right of Way. This fee is currently being researched and discussed with the County.

As has occurred in the past, WWD will continue to advocate on behalf of our customers to influence regional costs to our customer's benefit. We will also continue to work to control internal costs, to work efficiently, and to work strategically to best leverage resources and assets for our customers' benefit. The WWD's Board of Commissioners understands the importance of making sure that our customers receive the highest value for the money they pay to the District for water and sewer services. Our commitment is to protect and deliver the highest quality utility services to our customers in the most cost-effective way that we can – both now and in the future.

Visit woodinvillewater.com for the full Commissioner's Corner Article.

Application for 2025 Low-Income Discount Rates

The District is accepting applications in June for our 2025-2026 Low-Income Discount Program which provides reduced water and sewer rates for customers meeting specific income guidelines. To qualify, a ratepayer must apply annually, during the month of June, and have a maximum income level no greater than the "Very Low-Income" status by household size for the "King County Seattle/Bellevue" area as published annually by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The program provides for a discounted base charge for both water and District sewer periodic charges

and a discounted water consumption charge for the first 10 CCFs/7,480 gallons used each billing cycle.

Customers currently receiving the discount rate will be mailed an application for the 2025-2026 cycle. New applicants for the program can obtain the Low-Income Application Form, including the 2025-2026 income levels, by visiting our webpage at woodinvillewater.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our office at 425-487-4100 or email customerservice@woodinvillewater.com and we will be happy to send you one.

Drinking Water Quality Annual Report

Published April 2025

Woodinville Water District takes pride in supplying you and your family with safe reliable drinking water. Our annual Water Quality Report provides information about water testing completed in 2024.

It explains what is in our water and how the supply is protected and treated.

Thank you for being our customer and for taking the time to learn about your drinking water.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

The Cascade Mountains supply our drinking water. Two very large, protected watersheds, the Cedar River Watershed and the South Fork Tolt River Watershed, supply almost all of Seattle's metropolitan area with drinking water. We purchase all our water from Seattle. Most of our water comes from the Tolt River Watershed, but occasionally we receive water from the Cedar River Watershed.



Tolt Reservoir

Are Contaminants a Risk?

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.



Who Is Making Sure Our Water Is Safe To Drink?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Washington state board of health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington state department of agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



As part of this process, Washington's Source Water Assessment Program is conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water. According to DOH, all surface waters in Washington are given a susceptibility rating of "high", regardless of whether contaminants have been detected or whether there are any sources of contaminants in the watershed. Information on the source water assessments is available from the DOH website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/swap/maps/>

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In Seattle's surface water supplies, the potential sources of contamination include:

- » microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife;
- » inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring; and
- » organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

Lead And Copper And Your Drinking Water – Are You At Risk?

Although there is no detectable lead in our source water, some homes, especially those built before 1985, have some risk of lead contamination from water that sits in pipes longer than several hours. When your plumbing was installed and what type of plumbing you have all play a part in determining your potential exposure level. Seattle treats the water to minimize the tendency for lead to enter the water, and results show this has been very successful. 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. Woodinville Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 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 methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING RESULTS (TOLT WSA)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action Level +	Combined Regional Monitoring		WWD's Customers	Source
			2023 Results*	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	
Lead, ppb	0	15.0	3.0	0 of 55	0 of 9	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.18	0 of 55	0 of 9	

* 90th Percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

+ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; **ppb** = parts per billion; **ppm** = parts per million

Results from summer of 2023 sampling. Per requirements, the next round of sampling will be done in summer 2026.



2024 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

Detected Compounds	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels in Tolt Water		Levels in Cedar Water		Meet USEPA Standards?	Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	Compliance	
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	1.24	1.12 - 1.39	0.73	0.5 - 1.23	✓ YES	Naturally present in environment
FINISHED WATER									
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.04	0.02 - 0.29	0.41	0.16 - 2.1	✓ YES	Soil runoff
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.23	0.2 - 0.3	0.4	0.3 - 0.6	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.2	1.1 - 1.4	1.3	1.2 - 1.5	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	ppb	0	10	0.3	ND - 3.8	1.3	ND - 14	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.7	0.6 - 0.8	0.65	0.6 - 0.7	✓ YES	Water additive - promotes strong teeth
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.08	One Sample	ND	One Sample	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Coliform, Total	%	0	5%	Highest Month = 1.35%, Annual Average = 0.11%				✓ YES	Naturally present in environment
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (Measured in the Woodinville Water District Distribution Area)									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	41	28 - 51	NA	NA	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5) (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	28	14 - 36	NA	NA	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
CL2 RESIDUAL (Measured in the Woodinville Water Distribution Area)									
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4.0	MRDL = 4.0	Average = 1.10 mg/L Range = 0.17 - 1.59 mg/L				✓ YES	Water additive used to control microbes

DEFINITIONS:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - 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.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - 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.

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

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2021 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2022 were below 0.3 NTU.

NA: Not Applicable **ND:** Not Detected

ppm: 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter

ppb: 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter

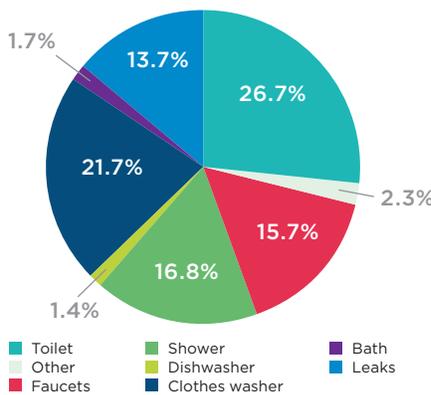
1 ppm = 1000 ppb

Conservation Program Goals and Results

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) - which is made up of Woodinville Water District and 18 water utility partners - has set a ten-year conservation goal: keep the total average annual retail water use of SWP members under 110 mgd through 2028, despite forecasted population growth, by reducing per capita water use. For 2024, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 94.5 mgd.

Residential Water Use

Source: Water Research Foundation, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2. 2016



Do You Have Health Concerns?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control 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).

How Can I Get More Info?

WWD Water Quality Office
425-487-4125
waterquality@woodinvillewater.com
www.woodinvillewater.com
(Click on the Water Quality Tab in the Quick Links Menu)

Seattle Public Utilities, Water Quality Lab
206-684-7834
drinkingwater.quality@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov

Washington State Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/ehb/dw

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov/safewater

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

WaterSmart Customer Portal

Register for WaterSmart Customer Portal to Track Your Water Usage & Setup Alerts for High Water Usage The WaterSmart Portal is a valuable tool the District has provided to help you better manage your water use and the usage amount on your bill. This is water usage information that comes from the individual water meter serving your property.

- » The water usage data you will see is “near-real-time”. Water usage data is transmitted once per day to the portal - you should be able to see data from the previous day.
- » Hourly water meter reading data is helpful in that it allows you to see just how much water you use when you do common activities like showering, laundry or watering your landscape. It often is a surprise to people just how much water is used for certain activities, particularly for irrigation.
- » Setting up alerts on your account is a very important part of creating your account. A link is provided in the portal to show step-by-step instructions on how to find a leak and help you identify and resolve the leak source; beginning with the two most likely causes, leaks in an irrigation system and a silent toilet leak.
- » Your alert can point out irregularly high-water usage, which may have been caused by a leak or some other situation such as a faucet or hose being left on.

Visit www.woodinvillewater.com and Click on Customer Portal to register.



Lead Service Line Inventory Project

WHAT IS THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE (LCR)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the first Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in 1991 to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. On January 15, 2021, the EPA issued updated Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) that went into effect on December 16, 2021 aimed at ensuring that no lead service lines remain in service nationwide. To comply with the LCRR, Woodinville Water District was required to develop and submit a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) to the state by October 16, 2024; while continuing to comply with the monitoring, reporting, and testing requirements of the prior version of the Lead and Copper Rule.

References:

- **WA DOH LCRR site** - <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/contaminants/lead/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>
- **WA DOH Lead Service Line Inventory Guidance** - <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/331-711.pdf>
- **Revised Lead and Copper Rule | US EPA** - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule>

WHAT IS A SERVICE LINE?

A service line consists of two main components: A length of pipe connecting the water meter to the water distribution main, and a length of pipe connecting the water meter to a building's plumbing system. The District owns and is responsible for all of the piping and components from the water main up to and including the water meter.

The Customer is responsible for all piping and components downstream of the water meter service line to the house.



Woodinville Water District's Lead Service Line Material Identification Methodology

The Importance of Historical Records

The District established its first set of water system standard construction specifications and drawings in 1960, which contained a list of allowable service line materials, and those have been regularly updated and maintained since that time. Lead has never been approved for any District owned piping. The District has also maintained a complete set of all project construction as-built drawings, and the Geographic Information System (GIS) staff have meticulously reviewed and documented a large inventory of information on our water and sewer asset over the years, material type and installation year being two of those attributes. The District was able to determine that the first water main installation project occurred in 1962, and the District owned portion of the water service lines were also installed at that time using the approved construction standards and specifications.

It was later discovered that King County banned the use of lead in 1957 per DOH publication 331-711 Lead Service Inventory Guidance. This King County DOH publication was issued before the District even had pipe in the ground and much earlier than the State and Federal ban in 1986.

It is now safe to determine that all service lines within the District's Water Service Area in King County are clearly non-lead thanks to historical records kept at the District, county and state level, and easily accessed and analyzed using the District's GIS.

Our Snohomish County Customers

The vast majority of the District's water customers are located in King County, however the District also serves water to 29 customers in Snohomish County. Of these, 15 customer side service lines in Snohomish County were installed before the Federal and State ban of lead service lines in 1986. *The District could not apply the 1957 DOH publication referenced above to eliminate these service lines, as it only applied to service lines located in King County.* Snohomish County Assessor data was used to determine the build date of the homes served by the District in Snohomish County, and after a thorough search, the District did not find historic tap cards nor any additional permitting records on the municipal or county level that would assist in material identification of these 15 service lines. They were then required to be classified as "Unknowns".

Verification Process for our 15 Snohomish County "Unknowns"

The District chose to physically inspect all 15 of the service lines in Snohomish County whose service line material could not be identified by GIS and/or historical records or eliminated by local, state or federal statute. This process was carried out as follows:

- The District notified the 15 property owners to explain the updated federal EPA requirements and why we were required to physically verify the material type of the customer owned portion of the service line.
- An anticipated timeline was provided to each property owner outlining when District crews would be in the area doing the excavation work.
- District crews excavated and exposed the customer side service line right behind the water meter, documented the material type, and restored each location to it's original or better condition when completed. All 15 Unknowns were found to consist of non-lead material.
- Letters were sent to all 15 customers notifying them of the results and that no further action or requirements were necessary.
- The data collected in the field was appended to the District's existing Service Line Inventory in our GIS and uploaded to the Department of Health Portal prior to the October 16th, 2024 deadline, which satisfied the EPA's final requirement.

For more information visit www.woodinvillewater.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**CALL (811) BEFORE
YOU DIG!**

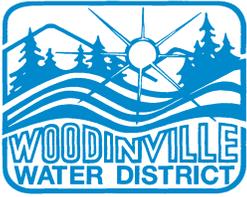
CallBeforeYouDig.org

Woodinville Water District reminds you to make sure you prevent accidentally hitting an underground utility line when digging. Use the free "Call Before You Dig" hotline at 811 at least two working days before starting a digging project of more than 12 inches deep. The 811 hotline staff will provide you with the locations of lines that serve power, gas, water, sewer and/or telephone utilities that are located along the right-of-way of your property. If you accidentally dig into an underground utility line, not only do you risk injury, you are also responsible for all repairs by state law.

**Let Us Know
About Life Support
Issues Requiring
Non-Interrupted
Water Service**

A reminder to all - please be sure to let us know if anyone in your household has a serious health condition requiring water to be available at all times, such as kidney dialysis. We make a note of this on your customer account screen.

Please contact Customer Service at 425-487-4100 or email customerservice@woodinvillewater.com.



Woodinville Water District
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The Pipeline is designed to keep Woodinville Water District customers up-to-date on water related issues, projects, and conservation education. The District welcomes your feedback and your suggestions for future stories.

Woodinville Water District

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**Do your part,
 be water smart**



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