

The City of Oak Harbor Water Division supplies water to its customers in and around the City of Oak Harbor.

In 2015, the City is again issuing a communication entitled Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to our water customers. The CCR identifies the source of your drinking water, any contaminants that have been identified in the water, the potential health effect of those contaminants and where you can get additional information. Water analysis is technical, but we hope you will find this report interesting and informative. The next time you enjoy a refreshing glass of water, you can be confident of its safety and superior quality. We all share the responsibility to preserve and protect our most valuable resource – **water**.



THE CITY OF OAK HARBOR PROVIDES  
**exceptional water  
for you!**

Water from the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant is pumped through 24- and 10-inch diameter transmission lines to the City of Oak Harbor. The water passes through a booster pump station where fluoride is added. By the time the water reaches you it has traveled through 89± miles of water mains. In addition to supplying residential and commercial customers, the City also supplies water to NAS Whidbey Island, Deception Pass State Park and North Whidbey Water District.

The City has four reservoirs capable of storing 7.15 million gallons of water and maintains three deep wells as an emergency source. There are also three inter-tie connections with the NAS-Whidbey water system, providing access to additional water that could be shared in an emergency. The City of Oak Harbor, as a water supplier, is required to meet State and Federal water standards.

### Water Use Efficiency

Water is a precious, limited resource. In the Pacific Northwest, water for our growing population competes with demands for fish protection, agriculture and recreation. Using water efficiently is particularly important during summer months when rainfall is scarce and customer demand is high. The WA State Municipal Water Efficiency Rule required municipal water suppliers to set water use efficiency goals through a public process, which occurred on January 15, 2008.

The following are the water efficiency goals for the City of Oak Harbor Water Utility:

- Continue maintaining distribution leakage at or below 10%. The City of Oak Harbor water leakage for 2014 was 9.7%.
- Reduce family household water use to 60 gallons per person per day on a three year average.
- Reduce seasonal outdoor water use by 5% by 2016.



### NOTICE:

A link to this report has been sent to all City of Oak Harbor water accounts. If you own, rent or manage a building with multiple units and multiple water users, the Water Division requests that you make this report available to your tenants. This report can be viewed and downloaded on the Water Division web page at [www.oakharbor.org](http://www.oakharbor.org), or you can request extra copies of this report by calling (360) 279-4750, or in writing to:



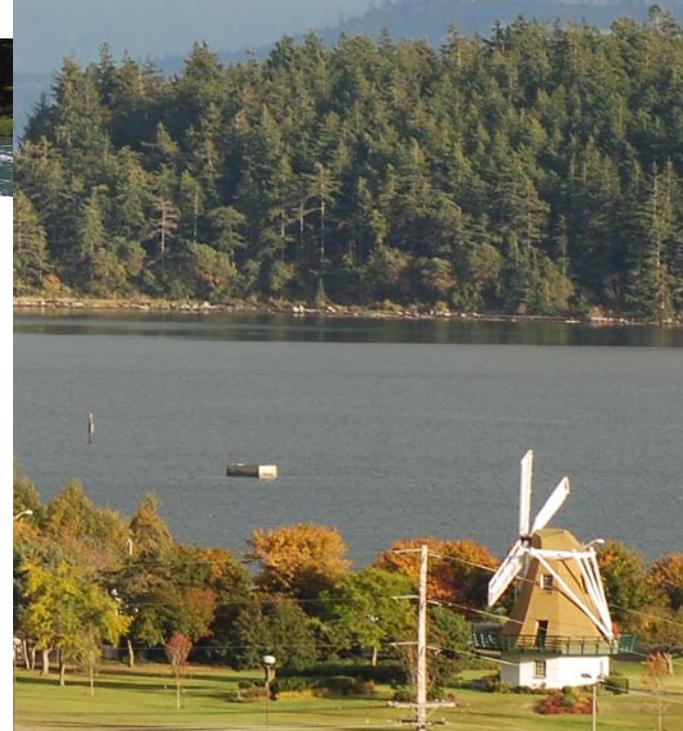
City of Oak Harbor  
Water Division  
865 SE Barrington Drive  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

For further information on drinking water related issues call the NSF consumer hotline at (877) 8NSF-HELP or visit [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

CITY OF OAK HARBOR

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

2014





## FROM SNOWFLAKES TO WATER DROPS

The City of Oak Harbor receives 99% of its water from the City of Anacortes Water Treatment Plant (AWTP), and no further treatment is required other than fluoridation. Anacortes owns and operates a major water supply system, which produced an average of 16.2 million gallons of water per day for approximately 35,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 2014. The goal of the AWTP is to protect public health, to honor public trust and to promote employee safety. The AWTP's sole source of water supply comes from the Skagit River as surface water. The Skagit is the largest river basin draining into Puget Sound whose major tributaries are the Cascade, Sauk, Suiattle, and Baker Rivers. The Skagit River basin covers nearly 1.98 million acres, including portions of Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties and British Columbia; flowing 162 miles from the snow capped peaks of the Cascades, through parks, forests, hydroelectric dams, farmland, and several cities and towns before emptying into Skagit Bay. The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over or through the surface of the land or ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up sub-stances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:



**(A) Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock and operations, and wildlife.

**(B) 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.

**(C) Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources,

such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

**(D) Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**(E) Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

# WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2014

Substance (Units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Source of Substance	Monitored by:	Test Cycle Year	Violation?
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	0.30	0.016AVG	0.014-0.018	Soil Runoff	Anacortes	2014	No
Total Trihalo-methanes (PPB)	0	80	14.8AVG	9.0-24.6	By-product of chlorination	Anacortes	2014	No
Lead (PPM)	0	0.015	90% = 0.003	ND-0.005	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	Oak Harbor	2013	No
Total Trihalo-methanes (PPB)	0	80	18.94AVG	15.0-21.8	By-product of chlorination	Oak Harbor	2014	No
Fluoride (PPM)	4	4	0.79 AVG	0.00-1.38	Additive that promotes strong teeth*	Oak Harbor	2014	No

Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that the filtration system is functioning properly.

\* Individuals who drink bottled water as their primary source of water could be missing the decay preventive effects of optimally fluoridated water available from their community water supply. More than 100 national and international health, service and professional organizations recognize the public health benefits of communi-

### DEFINITIONS:

**Action level or AL.** The concentrations of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**CDC.** An abbreviation for the Center for Disease Control, an agency of the federal government.

**EPA.** An abbreviation for the Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency.

**Finished water.** Water leaving the treatment plant and entering the distribution system.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG.** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected

ty water fluoridation for preventing dental decay.

Chlorine is added to disinfect the finished water. The chlorine operating range is 0.60 PPM minimum and 1.20 PPM maximum. The WTP maintained an average of 0.92 PPM in 2014. Chlorine that was added for disinfection by Anacortes is monitored constantly at the Mainland pump station. The average chlorine residual was 0.66 PPM with a high of 1.00 PPM and a low of 0.50 PPM. Chlorine residual is an indicator of complete disinfection.

risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**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.

**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.

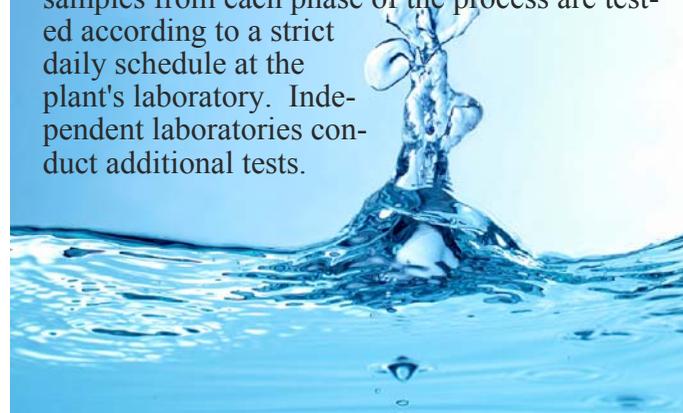
**NTU.** An abbreviation for Nephelometric Turbidity Units, a measurement of water clarity.

**PPM.** An abbreviation for Parts Per Million. One PPM = one penny in Ten Thousand Dollars.

**PPB.** An abbreviation for Parts Per Billion. One PPB = one penny in Ten Million Dollars.

## Water: We Treat It Right

The Anacortes Water Treatment Plant uses a multi-barrier approach in turning the raw Skagit River water into tap water. This consists of gates and screens at the Intake Station, where the water is drawn from the Skagit, disinfection to inactivate harmful organisms, and treatment to enhance the formation of large particles that can be readily settled out in the settling (or sedimentation) basins and filtered by the plant's multi-media filters. The filters use nature's own water purification method as the settled water passes through layers of anthracite, sand, garnet, and gravel. The entire treatment process is continuously and closely monitored. The plant is staffed 24 hrs per day, 365 days per year by certified water treatment plant operators. Water samples from each phase of the process are tested according to a strict daily schedule at the plant's laboratory. Independent laboratories conduct additional tests.



## Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, additional information is available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Microbiological Organisms

These are potentially harmful microorganisms that may be naturally occurring or introduced by humans. A total of 240 water distribution samples were analyzed in 2014. Of those samples, all were found to be in compliance.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, particularly those with compromised immune systems. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Reporting Water Quality Problems

To report water quality problems, leaks, outages, low pressure, etc. call: 279-4750 (Mon-Fri) 7:00 am - 4:30 pm or 679-9567 all other times. The Water Division is available to answer any questions regarding this report or the water system in general. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at the telephone numbers listed above with your comments or questions.