



# City of Bremerton; ID 08200R Drinking Water Quality Report 2022



## Customer's Views Welcome

Public Works & Utilities Department • 100 Oyster Bay Ave N • Bremerton, WA 98312

Contact **Customer Response** at 360-473-5920 or [Bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Bremerton1@ci.bremerton.wa.us).  
Check out **Bremerton1** in your app store.

The Bremerton City Council meets Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
at the Norm Dicks Government Center, 345 6th Street, Bremerton.

For billing information call 360-473-5316. The Bremerton Utility Billing Division  
is located on the first floor of the Norm Dicks Government Center.

For flushing instructions call our Water Hotline at 360-473-5490.

Visit the City's website at [www.BremertonWA.gov/e-News](http://www.BremertonWA.gov/e-News) and sign up for  
e-News to receive updates about the City of Bremerton.



**Celebrate National Drinking Water Week**  
**First Full Week of May**

Call 360-473-5920 for more information.

## Bremerton Drinking Water Quality is Excellent

The City of Bremerton Water Utility is pleased to provide you with its annual water quality and efficiency report. Bremerton is committed to safeguarding its surface and groundwater sources. This report is a summary of the test results for water provided to over 64,000 customers last year. It reflects the commitment of Water Utility employees to deliver you excellent quality water. Included are details about:

- where your water comes from,
- what it contains, and
- how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Safe drinking water is essential. Well-informed customers can wisely utilize water resources and support improvements necessary to maintain high quality drinking water.

## Protecting Our Water Supplies

Bremerton is fortunate to have high quality water supplies. Surface water from the Union River headwaters and groundwater from wells located in the Bremerton area provide Bremerton's water supply. Bremerton owns and protects the 3,000-acre watershed surrounding the Union River supply – this allows Bremerton's surface water system to remain one of only a few systems not required to filter. This is a great value to our rate payers as water filtration plants cost 15-20 million dollars to construct and close to a million dollars a year to operate and maintain. To continue to ensure the source can remain unfiltered, access to the Union River Watershed is secured, patrolled, and limited to water supply and forestry management activities.

Groundwater wells are also safeguarded through the City's Wellhead Protection Program to protect critical areas around the wellheads. All sources are managed according to state and federal regulations and best management practices for water supply systems. The Washington State Department of Health regularly inspects Bremerton's water system, including the surface supply. Bremerton was selected for an "Exemplary Source Water Protection" Award in 2017 by the American Water Works Association.



# Source Water Assessment Program

Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled source water assessment data for all public water systems in Washington. This assessment shows wellhead protection zones and inventories potential contaminants as part of a coordinated effort to protect drinking water sources in Washington.

Washington DOH's Source Water Assessment Program is online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/SourceWaterProtection#intro>

BREMERTON SOURCES					
Source #	Source Name	Water Type	Depth (feet)	Susceptibility Assessment	Treatment
S01	Union River Main Stem	Surface Water		High	Chlorine, UV
S02	Union River West Branch	Surface Water		High	Chlorine, UV
S07	Bremerton Well 2R	Groundwater	273	Low	Chlorine
S08	Bremerton Well 3	Groundwater	316	Moderate	Chlorine
S12	Bremerton Well 7	Groundwater	627	Low	Chlorine
S13	Bremerton Well 8	Groundwater	578	Low	Chlorine
S14	Bremerton Well 13	Groundwater	273	Low	Chlorine
S15	Bremerton Well 14	Groundwater	278	Low	Chlorine
S17	Bremerton Well 17	Groundwater	293	Low	Chlorine
S22	Bremerton Well 20	Groundwater	210.5	Low	Chlorine
S25	Bremerton Well 6R	Groundwater	645	Low	Chlorine

## Outside Sources

Bremerton's Water System receives water from Port Orchard's McCormick Woods Water System, through a shared reservoir in the area between Gorst and Port Orchard.

## Bremerton Water Needs Minimal Treatment

Bremerton's water system is operated and maintained by experienced personnel certified by the State. Bremerton's Union River water source is such good quality that the City is not required to install a filtration facility as long as all water quality, operational, and watershed protection requirements are met. Bremerton consistently meets these high standards. Treatment of Bremerton's water currently consists of disinfection (chlorine and ultraviolet light) and corrosion control. Corrosion treatment increases the pH of water to about 8 and is required to prevent Bremerton's water from leaching lead from customer's household plumbing. Sampling results confirm this treatment is successful in achieving corrosion control.



The City of Bremerton performs systematic flushing of the water distribution system. Customers are notified about flushing through newspaper ads, neighborhood signs, the City's website, e-News, and the Water Hotline (360-473-5490). Flushing is a process of sending a rapid flow of water through the mains to clean them. This helps to maintain water quality by removing naturally-occurring sediment. Flushing may cause temporary discoloration of your water. If this happens, call the Water Hotline or visit Bremerton's website for instructions on flushing your service. If your water does not clear up after the flushing process, please call the Customer Response Line at 360-473-5920.

# Water Quality Summary

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Your drinking water is regularly tested according to federal and state regulations in water sources and the distribution system. Last year the City of Bremerton conducted over 1,200 tests for the parameters listed below. Only those detected are listed in the water quality summary.

Our water system has violated a surface water treatment monitoring requirement. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customer you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific parameters on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the month of September 2021, we did not complete all the testing for biological contamination.

**What should you do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time. The table below lists the parameter not properly tested for, how often we are required to sample for this parameter, how many samples we are required to take, how many samples we took, and when samples should have been taken.

Parameter	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Required	Number of Samples Taken	When All Samples Should Have Been Taken
Source Fecal Coliform	Five days each week system serves water to the public	1 sample every day for five days during the week	4 samples were taken	5 samples should have been taken Sept. 5-11, 2021

**What happened? What is being done?** During the week of September 5 through September 11, 2021, only 4 source fecal coliform samples were taken instead of the required 5 per week for each week the water system serves water to the public per WAC 246-290-694 (l)(b). A holiday occurred on the Monday of that week, and the operator of the day neglected to collect the 5th sample on Saturday as planned to make up for the holiday.

All other required bacteriological monitoring was completed in September (23 source fecal coliform samples and 51 post-treatment samples from the distribution system) and the drinking water delivered to your tap met all state and federal water quality standards. However, the City takes its responsibility as a water purveyor and steward of public health very seriously. The source fecal coliform monitoring standard operating procedure was updated, and all staff attended refresher training on pertinent drinking water regulations and requirements.

Listed below are the few substances detected in Bremerton's water last year. All results meet protective standards set by federal and state agencies. Not listed are the substances that were tested but NOT detected. The amounts allowed in drinking water are so small, they are measured in parts per million or parts per billion. We have tried to make this report easy to understand; however, drinking water quality issues can be technical. For additional water quality information, please call 360-473-5920. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than a year old.

SUBSTANCES DETECTED						
Parameter	Highest Level Allowed EPA's MCL	Ideal Goals EPA's MCLG	Potential Sources	Highest Level Detected in 2021 to Determine Compliance	Ranges of Levels Detected in 2021	Meets Standards
<b>Regulated at the Surface Water Source</b>						
Turbidity	Treatment Technique 5 NTU	N/A	Soil runoff	2.52 NTUs	0.37 - 2.52 NTUs	Yes
Sodium <small>Most recently sampled in 2021</small>	No limit set	N/A	Naturally-occurring	5.19 ppm	ND - 5.19 ppm	Yes
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Fertilizer use	< 0.5 ppm	< 0.5 ppm	Yes
<b>Regulated at the Groundwater Sources</b>						
Arsenic <small>Most recently sampled in 2021</small>	10 ppb	0	Erosion of natural deposits	4 ppb	ND - 4 ppb	Yes
Sodium <small>Most recently sampled in 2021</small>	No limit set	N/A	Naturally-occurring	11.7 ppm	< 5 - 11.7 ppm	Yes
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Fertilizer use	1.76 ppm	< 0.5 - 1.76 ppm	Yes
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>						
Total Coliform	Presence of coliform in less than 5% of monthly samples	0	Naturally-occurring	There were zero coliforms present in the 894 samples taken in 2021.		Yes
Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination	74 ppb locational running annual average	1.3 - 94 ppb	Yes
Haloacetic acids	60 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination	37 ppb locational running annual average	0 - 66.1 ppb	Yes
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes	0.76 ppm annual average	0.02 - 1.49 ppm	Yes
<b>Regulated at the Customer Tap</b>						
Lead <small>Most recently sampled in 2020</small>	Action Level = 15 ppb	0	Household plumbing	5 ppb 90th percentile	No sample sites exceeded Action Level	Yes
Copper <small>Most recently sampled in 2020</small>	Action Level = 1300 ppb	0	Household plumbing	41 ppb 90th percentile	No sample sites exceeded Action Level	Yes

# Definitions

**Action Level** is the concentration of contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow. Ninety percent (90%) of all samples must be below this amount.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** is 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)** is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which no known or expected risk to health exists. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)** is the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in water.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)** is the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which no known or expected risk to health exists.

**pCi/l** stands for picocuries per liter. This is in parts per trillion.

**ppb** is parts per billion and is the same as a microgram per liter (ug/L) (equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000).

**ppm** is parts per million and is the same as a milligram per liter (mg/L) (equivalent to one penny in \$10,000).

**N/A** means not applicable.

**ND** means the laboratory did not detect this substance.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)** is the measurement of water clarity. Monitoring turbidity is a good indicator of water quality.

**Treatment Technique** is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant. Bremerton's surface supply is shut off when turbidity increases above set points.

## Waiver Information

The Washington State Department of Health reduced monitoring requirements for the Bremerton system for various contaminants because sources were determined not to be at risk of contamination. Inorganic compounds, including arsenic and sodium, are among the list of contaminants with a waiver; years of last samples are listed in the table, and results met all applicable standards.

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation. These contaminants may be naturally occurring, or are, in some cases, byproducts of disinfection. Those found by the City of Bremerton in the 2018 round of UCMR sampling are listed in the following table. No cyanotoxins were detected in the 2018 sampling event.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING 2018		
Parameter	Highest Level Detected in 2018	Ranges of Levels Detected in 2018
Manganese	57.1 ppb	9 - 57.1 ppb
TOC (indicator)	1400 ppb	1200 - 1400 ppb
HAA5	58.3 ppb	0.4 - 58.3 ppb
6BR	4.3 ppb	ND - 4.3 ppb
HAA9	60.9 ppb	0.4 - 60.9 ppb

## Information From EPA

Sources of both tap and bottled drinking water include rivers, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring substances such as minerals and radioactive materials. It also dissolves substances resulting from animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water are microbes; pesticides; herbicides; and radioactive, organic and inorganic chemicals. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Board of Health regulate the amount of certain contaminants in public drinking water.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those 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. EPA guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Please note that *Cryptosporidium* was not detected in Bremerton's source water last year and Bremerton's ultraviolet treatment inactivates *Cryptosporidium*.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

# Be Prepared for Emergencies

Normally your water is safe to drink, but should a disaster happen, you will need to treat it or have an emergency supply on hand if the city's water supply is interrupted. To prepare for a drinking water emergency, the American Red Cross recommends storing one gallon of water per person per day – enough for at least three days for drinking, food preparation, and sanitation. For more information on preparing for emergencies we recommend the following resources:

"Treating Drinking Water for Emergency Use," WA Dept. of Health: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/portals/1/Documents/pubs/331-115.pdf>

"Preparedness," Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management: <http://www.kitsapdem.org/preparedness.aspx>

## Professional Water Organizations

The City of Bremerton is proud to be members of the following professional water organizations:



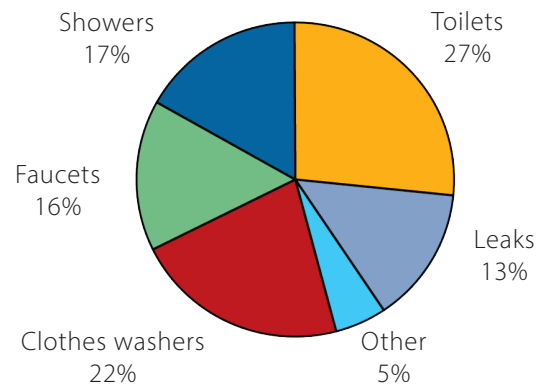
## Water Use Efficiency Performance Report for 2021

Efficient water use benefits the environment, public health, and economy by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect water resources. The City of Bremerton has emphasized water use efficiency since the 1990s. The City has a customer conservation program and is active in water use efficiency programs such as the Water Purveyors Association of Kitsap County, the Partnership for Water Conservation, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, and EPA's WaterSense.

2021 Total Annual Water Production—6.1 Million Gallons per Day

Bremerton's Main System Water Use Efficiency	
Goal	How Goal Was Met Last Year
Maintain water use per single family residence to below 180 gallons per day on a three year average.	Three year average water use per single family residence was 145 gallons per day. Goal was met. Great job by our customers!
State Regulation	How Regulation Was Met Last Year
Keep distribution system leakage less than 10% on a three year average.	Bremerton water system leakage was 4.4% on a three year average.

### Average Residential Indoor Water Use



Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, "Residential End Uses of Water"

## How to Use Water Wisely

Rain fills the reservoir and feeds underground aquifers to supply our drinking water. Wise water use is always recommended and your conservation efforts are important. Use water wisely to save money and this remarkable resource.

### Tackle the biggest water guzzlers first!

- Install high efficiency low flow toilets.
- Consider purchasing a water/energy efficient clothes washer/dishwasher.
- Repair leaky toilets and faucets.
- Use water-saving habits such as washing full loads only. Turn off the faucet when you shave or brush your teeth, and take shorter showers.
- Install low flow showerheads.
- Look for the WaterSense label on new plumbing fixtures.

### Nearly 1/3 of the water demand in the summer is used outdoors.

- Water late in the evening or early in the morning.
- Consider drought tolerant plants and native plants in your landscape.
- Use soaker hoses or install drip irrigation.
- Repair broken irrigation system sprinkler heads.
- Water lawns no more than 1 inch per week using a shallow can to measure.
- Install a rainwater collection barrel.
- Wash your car in a commercial car wash that recycles.

## Bremerton Water is a Great Value

Your water rates pay for delivering high-quality water to your tap and keeping the water system in top condition. City customers pay water rates among the lowest in Washington State and nationwide. We are able to keep rates low through ownership of the watershed, conscientious system operation and maintenance, and award of ARRA funding for our Advanced Disinfection Facility completed in 2011.

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*