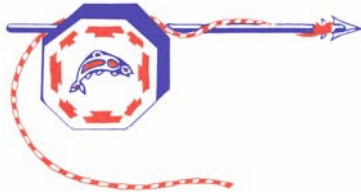


## A Consumer Confidence Report



*The Swinomish Tribal Community*

### The Swinomish Tribal Water System

#### Water Quality

Our goal is to always supply safe water to our customers. We are pleased to report on our efforts to meet this goal. This report contains detailed information about water quality and water testing completed between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. In summary, the water we supplied met all Federal quality standards. We continue to monitor the water monthly for bacteria and conduct special studies for lead and copper contamination. The Utility Department and the Swinomish Tribal Community remain committed to ensuring the highest quality of drinking water.

#### Our Water System

The Swinomish Tribal Community buys water from the city of Anacortes. We then pipe the water throughout the Reservation to serve the Village and other Tribal neighborhoods. We also sell water to commercial customers and other neighborhood users. We have two backup emergency wells on Reservation Road. To distribute the water, we maintain storage tanks, pumps, and miles of pipeline.

#### Want To Know More?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **John Petrich, Utility & Housing Director at 466-7223.**

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Utility Authority. The meeting announcements are posted at most tribal buildings.

The Skagit River is our source of water.

- For additional water quality information
- Environmental Protection Agency - Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791
- EPA Web site [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)
- American Water Works Association Web site [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)
- City of Anacortes Water Department 428-1598
- Swinomish Tribal Utilities: 466-7223

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### About Water Quality

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, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum

## 2012 Water Quality Data

The table below shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by the regulations (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, and the usual sources of such contamination. Test information from 2011.

Lead & Copper	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Range of Detection	Number of Sites above Action Level	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/l)	1.3	1.3	0.422 average	0.096-0.678	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (µg/l)	15	.015	0.004	0.001-0.023	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

**Table Definitions:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level:** The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Equivalent ratios of the contaminant in the water. By comparison 1 ppm would be like 1 penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** Equivalent ratios of the contaminant in the water. By comparison 1 ppb would be like 1 penny in \$10,000,000.  
**AL:** Action Level, the concentrations of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a system must follow.

In 2011 we had one home that exceeded the 0.015 mg/l level for lead. **The retest was below the action level., no more action was required.** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.



### What does the data mean?

The table shows that while some contaminants were detected, The levels were well below the established standards for drinking water. We are in full compliance with the established regulatory standards for public water supply operation. Our water qual-

ity reports are available for inspection at the Utility Office. We also have the current consumer confidence report from our supplier on file. Please contact our office if you would like to review this information.

#### Our Monitoring Program

Every three years we tested our water for lead and copper, our supplier also tests over 80 contaminants, including solvents, pesticides, heavy metals, and other inorganic chemicals. We collect and test samples every month for bacteria. Chemicals added to the water for treatment are tested daily.

**According to EPA:**

All drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 at 800-426-4791

## Should I be concerned about 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. The Swinomish Utility Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the vari-

ety 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 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in drinking 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

(from National Primary Drinking Water Regulations Part 141.154, in the section called "Required additional health information")

## Why does the water sometimes taste like chlorine?

Our water treatment process includes adding chlorine to kill bacteria. The drinking water regulations require that we keep a chlorine residual throughout our water distribution system. This insures that disinfection is accomplished throughout the system. Many factors influence

the level of chlorine in the water. These include; system maintenance, line flushing, fire hydrant maintenance, water temperature, and the quantity of water flowing through the pipes. Any of these may cause you to notice the smell or taste of chlorine. Water leaving our treatment

facility has a level of around 0.5 parts per million. We attempt to keep just a trace amount of chlorine residual, at the ends of the distribution system, to provide bacteria contamination protection for all customers

## What about fluoride and water?

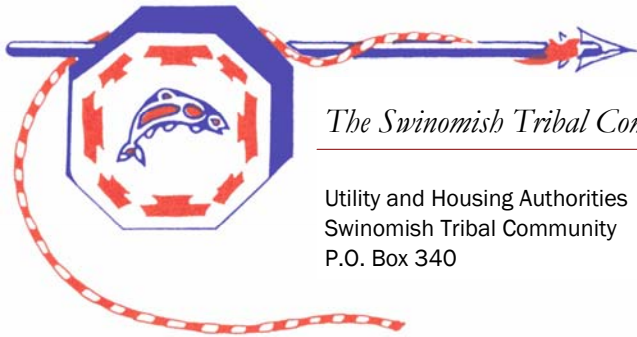
Fluoride is a naturally occurring chemical often found in water sources. Public health research has found that people who drink water containing optimal levels of fluoride have better dental health than consumers of fluoride deficient water. We adjust

the fluoride concentration in our water to optimal levels. We test the water daily for fluoride concentration and use our equipment to maintain the level at about 0.7 parts per million throughout the distribution system. Our customers receive the

benefit of consuming water containing the optimum level of fluoride.

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*"Our customers receive the benefit of consuming water containing the optimum level of fluoride."*



*The Swinomish Tribal Community*

Utility and Housing Authorities  
 Swinomish Tribal Community  
 P.O. Box 340

Phone 466-7223  
 Fax 360-466-7219

City of Anacortes Water Quality Data

Compounds and units	Average Level Detected or Highest Result	Range of Detections	Violations
Nitrate(ppm)	N/D	N/D	None
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	N/D	None
Chlorine(ppm)	0.75AVG	0.68-1.11	None
Haloacetic Acids 5(ppb)	25.5AVG	21.8-31.9	None
Total Trihalomethanes(ppb)	29.3Avg	21.3-31.9	None
Fluoride(ppm)	0.77AVG	0.03-1-2.00	None
Turbidity(NTU)	0.024Avg	0.015-0.1-57	None

Swinomish TTHM and HAA5 Results: 11/15/12

Level Detected

Date and Result:	Trigger	MCL	Violations
11/15/12			
TTHM 27.8	60	80	none
11/20/12			
HAA5 32.0	45	60	none

**Our Goal Is To Provide Safe Water!**

The Swinomish Tribal Community manages the water utility to provide valuable water service to community members and other customers. The tribal utility department will continue to maintain and monitor the water supply so that our goal, *"to always supply safe water to our customers"* is achieved. Please contact us if you have questions or if you would like more detailed information.

**Special 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. 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)*.