



# Water Testing

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Skagit County requires testing for contaminants for individual wells and alternative water sources.

## Ensure your results are recent

- Bacteriological test results must be for samples collected in the last six months.
- Inorganic test results must be for samples collected in the last five years.

## Use an accredited lab

Testing must be performed by a laboratory accredited by the State Department of Ecology for Drinking Water. A database of accredited labs is at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/).

## For more information

Visit our webpage at [www.skagitcounty.net/drinkingwater](http://www.skagitcounty.net/drinkingwater)

## Inorganic Chemicals

SCC 12.48.110 requires testing of the following parameters. Results that are above the maximum contaminant level must be resampled to confirm contamination. Results that exceed the maximum contaminant level may require treatment by disinfection or filtration and may require additional testing to confirm treatment.

Inorganic Chemical or Physical Characteristic	Maximum Contaminant Level (mg/L unless otherwise stated)	Health or Aesthetic Concern
arsenic	0.01	Skin and central nervous system damage
antimony	0.006	Gastrointestinal illness & potential human carcinogen
barium	2.0	Muscle stimulant, increase blood pressure
chromium	0.1	Liver and kidney damage
fluoride	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces tooth decay (.7 ppm – 1.2 ppm)</li> <li>• Tooth pitting and discoloration (2.0 + ppm)</li> <li>• Bone damage (4.0+ ppm)</li> </ul>
mercury	0.002	Central nervous system and kidney damage
nitrate	10.0	Reduces blood's ability to carry oxygen (infants particularly susceptible)
selenium	0.05	Skin and gastrointestinal damage
chloride	250	Skin and gastrointestinal damage; may indicate seawater intrusion
conductivity	700 µmhos/cm	Indicator of contamination
iron	*	Gastrointestinal and objectionable taste, odor, and staining
lead	*	Central and peripheral nervous system and kidney damage
hardness	*	Deposits in piping & may interfere with water treatment equipment
manganese	*	Taste, odor, and staining; central nervous system at high levels
pH	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low pH: bitter metallic taste: pipe corrosion.</li> <li>• High pH: slippery feel; soda taste; deposits on inside of piping.</li> </ul>
sodium	*	Increased blood pressure; may indicate seawater intrusion
total dissolved solids	*	Hardness, deposits, colored water, staining, salty taste
turbidity	*	Cloudy water; interferes with treatment or disinfection

\*no minimum contaminant level