



**This is the annual report** on the quality of the water delivered to homes and businesses within the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort (MPR) by Olympic Water and Sewer, Inc. (OWSI). It is designed to increase your awareness of the quality of your water and the need to protect this valuable resource.

Explore the **OWSI Website** at <http://www.ows-inc.com>. Find information on rates, the latest OWSI news, essential contact details, and a helpful FAQ section to address common water inquiries.

**AlertMedia.** Olympic Water & Sewer, Inc. has implemented a new notification system through AlertMedia to communicate with our customers. It will allow us to send multi-channel alerts to impacted individuals via email. Text, and voice calls will be utilized for critical situations. Such events may include: OWSI-related emergencies, boil water or do not drink notices, water main flushing, etc. You must opt-in to receive messages by registering through the website. This service is free to our customers.

**Under normal conditions you may reach us between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at (360) 437-2101.** If your question is regarding billing choose option 2 and for operational questions choose option 6. If you prefer email [OWSI@portludlowassociates.com](mailto:OWSI@portludlowassociates.com) is checked daily Monday-Friday and we will respond to your requests.

**For after-hours emergencies** call the answering service at **1 (877) 826-5787** and they will dispatch a technician.

**For questions about this report** call Jason White at **360-437-8349** or email the address listed above.

OWSI welcomes any question you have about water quality or any other related concerns.

Additional information about contaminants in drinking water can be obtained from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) at (800) 521-0323.

**Where does your water come from?** We currently pump water from five ground water wells ranging in depth from 200-560 feet. Wells #2, 3 and 4N are in the area of Walker Way, Talbot Way, and Walden Ln. Wells #14 and 16 are located off Teal Lake Road.

Generally speaking, if you live above (north and west) Oak Bay Road, you are located in Service Zone A. All other areas are located in Service Zone B.

Well Number	DOH Source #	Service Zone	Treatment Method	Contaminant Treated For
2	01	A	Filtration	Iron & Manganese
3	02	A	Filtration	Iron & Manganese
4	04	A	None	
14	06	B	Filtration	Arsenic & Manganese
16	08	B	Filtration	Arsenic & Manganese

Zones A and B are able to interconnect during certain water demand conditions.

**Source Water Protection.** All of the wells are protected by a "Wellhead Protection Plan" that restricts activities that may pose contamination risks. DOH has on their website information on the Source Water Assessment Program for all public water systems in Washington State. The website address is

[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/SourceWaterProtection#links](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/SourceWaterProtection#links). There you can click on SWAP Maps and either search for Olympic Water and Sewer Inc. in the search bar or click on the map and zoom in to Port Ludlow. We recommend the search option. Well #3 is rated as moderate susceptibility to contaminants while all other wells are rated as low. If you do not have access to the Web, we encourage you to use the Internet service through the public library system.

**The quality of the water delivered to Port Ludlow.** In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the WA State Department of Health (DOH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The water delivered to your homes and businesses meets all of the standards for physical, chemical and radiological contaminants.

There were 69 water complaints logged by OWSI in 2023. Of those logged water quality complaints 40 were for color, 16 were for high usage, 5 were for leaks, 4 were for low pressure, 2 were for taste/odor, 1 for no water, and 1 for billing.

OWSI had one Tier 2 violation due to a chemical feed overdosing event that took place during the time frame of March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>. OWSI uses potassium permanganate to treat well water for iron and manganese removal. The maximum level of permanganate dispersed in the water system was not known. The visible result was that the drinking water had a pink or purple color for a brief time during the event. The draining of Reservoir 'B' located in the LMC storage area at Talbot Way and Swansonville Rd combined with swift flushing by the OWSI technicians removed the excess potassium permanganate from the system. Water quality samples were obtained from the water system on April 6 and delivered to an accredited lab to confirm manganese levels were safe and water quality had returned to normal. The internal test results indicated a range of 0.044 mg/l to 0.119 mg/l for an average of 0.067 mg/L manganese, which is just over the secondary contaminant level of 0.05 mg/L for discolored water and other aesthetic issues. As a result of this issue, OWSI developed and implemented several physical and operational improvements to prevent such an event from occurring again along with implementing its AlertMedia notification system and encourages all customers to register for the free messaging service.

There was one case issued against OWSI through the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The Port Ludlow Village Council (PLVC) challenged the rate increase in 2023 and the WUTC ultimately upheld its initial ruling.

Water quality issues posted on social web sites do not count as complaints against OWSI. If you have a water quality complaint please make an official complaint to OWSI. OWSI tracks official water quality complaints and uses that information to plan maintenance or operational changes that improve water quality.

**Cross Connection Control Program.** is an important aspect of providing safe water to our customers. Annual testing of backflow prevention assemblies is required by a certified tester that has provided OWSI with their credentials. A backflow is the movement of water from the customer's water system back into the public distribution system either by back pressure or back siphon. A list of certified Backflow assembly testers can be accessed at <https://grcc.greenriver.edu/wacertservices/bat/hire-a-bat/> or contacting OWSI for a list of local testers.

**Biological Contaminants.** Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the water distribution system. If found,

coliforms indicate the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. If this occurs we would conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

**In 2023 there were no unsatisfactory bacteria samples.**

**PFAS**, PFAS, per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are often called forever chemicals due to their long-life span. Some activities can make drinking water sources vulnerable to contamination from PFAS. Fortunately Port Ludlow does not contain many of the causes of possible contamination from PFAS and the testing reflected that with results being less than the lowest level detectable with current testing technology. OWSI will continue to monitor for PFAS as required by the DOH. For more information on PFAS visit the EPA website:

- <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>
- [PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation FAQs for Drinking Water Primacy Agencies \(PDF\)](#)
- [PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024 webpage](#)

**Sentry Internet.** If you would like information on the OWSI water system much can be found on the Washington Department of Health Office of Drinking Water Sentry Internet.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Intro.aspx>.

**Washington Utility and Transportation Commission (WUTC)**, The WUTC is an advocate for the customer and the utility. There is a responsibility to the customer to protect them from over charging by the utility for water services provided. The WUTC also has a responsibility to the utility to allow a rate that will keep the utility viable. The OWSI tariff is on the WUTC website that lists all of the rules and rates that OWSI must abide by. <https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/utilities/water>

The tariff is also available on the OWSI website. [www.ows-inc.com](http://www.ows-inc.com)

**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 (800-426-4791).

**DOH Office of Drinking Water and the EPA** prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**The sources of drinking water** in the world (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.

**Examples of contaminants that may affect source water quality include:**

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, parasites, 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Statement on Lead**

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>.

**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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**The water testing table attached** lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent analyses (within the last five years). DOH does not require monitoring for all contaminants at frequent intervals because their concentration is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Only detections within the previous five years are reported. Sampling dates are noted at the top of the table or within the table if more recent.

There are several other contaminants that are routinely tested for but were not detected in laboratory analysis. As you examine the data, note that the results of the laboratory testing are compared to an MCL or Maximum Contamination Limit. This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

There were no detections of inorganic chemicals other than arsenic in 2023.

## Water Quality Table 2023

Contaminant	MCL, TT	MCLG	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4N	Well 14	Well 16	Typical Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>								
Year Sampled - most recent five year data only			2019	2022	2022	2023		
Arsenic - at source	10 ppb	0	<1 ppb	3 ppb	3 ppb			Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production waste.
Arsenic - Zone B post treatment	10 ppb	0				Tested Monthly	Range of samples 3.0-5.0 parts per billion (ppb)	
<b>Radioactive</b>								
	MCL	MCLG	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4N	Well 14	Well 16	
Year Sampled			2021	2021	2022	2021		
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	0	< 3.0 pCi/L	< 3.0 pCi/L	< 3.0 pCi/L	1.67 pCi/L	< 3.0 pCi/L	Naturally occurring; erosion of natural deposits.
Year Sampled			2022	2021	2021	2022	2021	
Radium 228 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	<1.0	1.01 pCi/L	<1.0 pCi/L	<1.0 pCi/L	0.54 pCi/L	<1.0 pCi/L	Naturally occurring; erosion of natural deposits.
Year Sampled			2021					
Radium 226 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	<1.0	<1.0 pCi/L			Naturally occurring; erosion of natural deposits.		
<b>Disinfection By-products</b>								
	MCL	MCLG	Result	Distribution System				
Halacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	NA	8 ppb	Highest result from two separate samples				By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	NA	20 ppb	Highest result from two separate samples				By-product of drinking water chlorination.
<b>Microbiological</b>								
	MCL	MCLG	Result	Distribution System				
Total Coliform (Present/Absent)	TT	NA	*	*No unsatisfactory results in 2023.				Naturally present in the environment
<b>Lead and Copper - 2023</b>								
	Action Level	MCLG	Result	Distribution System				
Lead	15 ppb	0	2.9 ppb	Cumulative 90% avg. -sampled at customer's tap				
				Range of samples ND-10.0 parts per billion (ppb)				
				Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.				
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.11 ppm	Cumulative 90% avg. -sampled at customer's tap				
				Range of samples ND-0.24ppm parts per million (ppm)				
				Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.				
<b>Asbestos - 2023</b>								
	MCL	MCLG	Result	Distribution System				
	7 MFL	7 MFL	0.17 MFL	Longest stretch of AC pipe				Decay of asbestos cement water mains.

**Additional Arsenic Information:** Well 14, at the source, exceeds the limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb) set by EPA in February 2002.

In November 2021 the water from wells 14 and 16 began treatment for arsenic removal.

Below is an arsenic educational statement from the State Department of Health as well as EPA language on possible health effects.

**DOH Statement:** Your drinking water currently meets EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic. However, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

**EPA Statement:** Some people who drink water that contains arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Health Effects: Coliform,** bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present.

**Copper:** An essential nutrient, but some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and 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.

### Definitions and Notes

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see definition below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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. MCLGs have not been established for many contaminants.

**State Reporting Level (SRL):** indicates the minimum reporting level required by DOH.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

**Non Detect (ND):** Result measured less than the detectable limit of the lab method.

**Not Applicable (NA)**

ppm = parts per million, ppb = parts per billion, pCi/L = pico curie per liter, MFL = million fibres per liter