
Consumer Confidence Report 2026



JULY 1

City of Leavenworth



Purpose of the Consumer Confidence Report

2026 Report

We are pleased to share the City of Leavenworth's 2026 Annual Water Quality Report. This report provides important information about the quality and reliability of the drinking water delivered to your home or business each day.

Our goal is to supply clean, safe, and dependable water. We are committed to continuous improvement in our treatment processes and to protecting our water sources. This report highlights the steps we take to ensure high-quality water and regulatory compliance.

Leavenworth's drinking water comes from two sources: surface water from Icicle Creek and groundwater from wells near the Wenatchee River. Depending on demand and system conditions, the water delivered to customers may come from either source or a blend of both.

El informe trata sobre la calidad del agua potable y sugiere que las personas busquen ayuda para leerlo.



Introduction

Leavenworth's Water Treatment Plant, built in 1969, plays a vital role in providing safe drinking water. Every day, plant staff test the water, adjust chemicals, and maintain equipment, to ensure quality and safety.

This report shares details of our daily operations and our commitment to improving water treatment and protecting our water sources.

Where does your Water Come From?

The City of Leavenworth's drinking water is a combination of surface and groundwater.

SURFACE WATER **Icicle River (SO1)**

Surface water is drawn from Icicle Creek, approximately 4.5 miles upstream in the Icicle Canyon. It flows by gravity through an intake screen to the Water Treatment Plant, where it is treated before distribution. Only surface water is treated at the plant.

GROUNDWATER **By Wenatchee River (SO3)**

Groundwater is pumped from wells near the Wenatchee River and the Leavenworth Golf Course. The groundwater is chlorinated before entering the distribution system and storage reservoirs. Three well pumps are used, each supplying different flow rates.

Tampering with or trespassing on any City of Leavenworth water facility is a federal offense. This includes all structures and surrounding areas at water intakes, reservoirs, booster stations, and production facilities.



Leavenworth's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state standards. While some constituents may be detected, levels remain below the limits set by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

All sources of drinking water—including bottled water—may contain trace amounts of naturally occurring or human-made substances. The presence of a contaminant does not necessarily mean the water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, contact the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some individuals may be more vulnerable to contaminants than the general population. These include people with weakened immune systems, such as those undergoing chemotherapy, individuals with organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, as well as some elderly individuals and infants. These groups should consult their healthcare providers regarding drinking water safety. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer guidelines to help reduce the risk of infection from microbial contaminants like *Cryptosporidium*. These guidelines are also available through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Drinking water regulations continue to evolve. The City of Leavenworth takes a proactive approach to staying current with changes and maintaining a high standard of water quality.

Water Treatment Plant

Surface water from Icicle Creek is treated at the City's direct filtration treatment plant, which uses mixed media filters. Direct filtration means the water is not pre-settled or clarified before entering the filters.

The filter beds use layered media consisting of gravel, sand, and anthracite. These materials work together to remove particles from the water—gravel and sand provide physical filtration, while anthracite aids in capturing finer material.

When turbidity levels in Icicle Creek are too high—typically in spring and occasionally in fall—the plant is temporarily shut down to maintain water quality standards.

Operators continuously monitor water quality parameters to ensure compliance with Department of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The combined filtration and disinfection process ensures the water is safe to drink.

In 2025, the average chlorine residual leaving the treatment plant was 0.82 parts per million (ppm), well below the maximum allowable limit of 4.0 ppm.

Corrosion Control

Leavenworth's drinking water originates from high-quality sources—primarily mountain streams and snowmelt. While this source water is clean, it is naturally low in alkalinity and can be corrosive to pipes.

To address this, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) requires the City to add a corrosion control inhibitor during treatment. This additive forms a protective coating inside distribution pipes, helping to extend their service life and reduce the risk of lead and copper leaching into the drinking water.

Fluoride

The City of Leavenworth does not add fluoride to the drinking water.

Chlorine

Chlorine is added to Leavenworth's drinking water as required by the Washington State Department of Health to protect against harmful bacteria and other microorganisms.

In 2025, the average chlorine concentration within the City's water distribution system was 0.72 ppm, well within regulatory standards.

Chlorination has been essential in eliminating waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.



Water Quality Monitoring Results

Water Quality Monitoring Results Table

Regulated Substance	MCL	MCLG	Surface Water (Icicle River)		Well Water (Near Wenatchee River)		Major Sources	Violation
			Results	Year Tested	Results	Year Tested		
Arsenic	10 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.00026 ppb	2021	Erosion of Natural Soil	No
Beryllium	4 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	< 0.1 ppb	2021	Discharge from electrical & aerospace industries	No
Cadmium	5 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	< 0.1 ppb	2021	Corrosion of galvanized pipes and/or erosion of natural deposits	No
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	ND	2022	0.05pm	2021	Erosion of Natural Soil	No
Nickel	0.1 ppm	NA	ND	2022	0.0024 ppm	2021	Erosion of Natural Soil	No
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	ND	2025	ND	2025	Runoff from Fertilizer Use, Septic Systems	No
Selenium	0.05 ppm	NA	ND	2022	0.0005 ppm	2022	Erosion of Natural Soil	No
Turbidity	1.0 NTU	< 0.3 NTU	<.03 NTU	2025	<.03 NTU	2025	Erosion of Natural Soil	No
Radionuclides								
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	ND	2023	<3.0 pCi/L	2023	Decay of Natural Deposits	No
Radium 228	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	ND	2023	<0.2 pCi/L	2023	Decay of Natural Deposits	No
Herbicides								
2,4 - D	70 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.2 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
2,4,5 - TP (Silvex)	50 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.4 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
Pentachlorophenol	1 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.08 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
Dalapon	200 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	2 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
Dinoseb	7 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.4 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
Picoloram	500 ppb	0 ppb	ND	2022	0.2 ppb	2022	Runoff from herbicides	No
Distribution Samples								
Regulated Substance	MCL/AL	SRL	Range of Detection		Annual Average	Year Tested	Major Sources	Violation
Haleoacetic Acid	60 ppb	6 ppb	ND-6.55 ppb		1.765ppb	2025	Chlorine Disinfection By-product	No
Total Trihalomethane	80 ppb	0.5 ppb	ND – 12.2 ppb		1.92ppb	2025	Chlorine Disinfection By-product	No
Total Coliform	0 ppm	0 ppm	0 ppm		0 ppm	Monthly	Indicator bacteria	No
Lead	.015 ppm	0.001 ppm	<.001 - .00106ppm		<.001ppm	2023	Corrosion in distribution system	No
Copper	1.3 ppm	0.02 ppm	0.006 – 0.54 ppm		.169ppm	2023	Corrosion in distribution system	No
Asbestos Fibers	7 MFL	0.2 MFL	NA		<0.164 MFL	2024	Corrosion in distribution system	No

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, requires treatment or other corrective action.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level below which no known or expected health risk exists. MCLGs include a safety margin.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. Set as close to the MCLG as possible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant below which no known health risk is expected. Does not account for benefits of disinfection.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of water clarity. Turbidity above 5 NTU is typically visible to the average person.

Non-Detect (ND): Indicates the substance was not detected during laboratory analysis.

Parts per Million (ppm): One part in a million, equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Parts per Billion (ppb): One part in a billion, equivalent to micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$).

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process to reduce a contaminant when setting an MCL isn't feasible.



Other Contaminants

Both surface water and groundwater can contain naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials. As water moves through the environment, it can also pick up substances from human and animal activity.

Potential contaminants in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, from wastewater systems, livestock operations, and wildlife.

Radioactive contaminants, which may occur naturally or result from oil and gas production or mining.

Other contaminants, described in more detail in the sections below.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen commonly found in surface water. While filtration reduces its presence, no method guarantees 100% removal.

Our monitoring has detected Cryptosporidium in source and/or treated water. Current testing cannot determine whether the organisms are alive or capable of causing illness.

Ingesting Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal infection with symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, and cramps. Most healthy individuals recover without complications, but those with weakened immune systems are at greater risk. Individuals in this group should consult a healthcare provider for guidance.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause illness and can also spread through non-waterborne sources.

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and the largest source of radiation exposure for most people in Washington State. It cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled.

Radon can enter homes through cracks in foundations and may also be released into indoor air from tap water during activities like showering or washing dishes. However, radon from tap water is typically a minor source compared to soil gas.

Breathing radon can increase the risk of lung cancer, and drinking water with radon may raise the risk of stomach cancer.

If you're concerned, test the air in your home. Testing is simple and affordable. The EPA recommends taking action if indoor air levels are **4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** or higher.

For more information, contact your state radon program or call the EPA Radon Hotline at **1-800-SOS-RADON**.

Lead and Copper

Lead and copper levels in Leavenworth's drinking water were below regulatory limits during the most recent testing in **June 2023**.

Lead in drinking water typically comes from plumbing materials such as service lines, old galvanized pipes, and lead solder. Leavenworth's water supply meets EPA standards and is treated to reduce corrosion that could cause metals to leach into the water.

Infants, young children, and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to lead exposure. Homes built between **1983 and 1986** with copper pipes and lead solder are considered higher risk by the EPA.

Even if your home's plumbing contains lead, you can reduce potential exposure by flushing your tap for **30 seconds to 2 minutes** before use. If you're concerned, consider testing your water.

For more information, contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals used in industrial and consumer products since the 1940s. They include PFOA, PFOS, and many others.

PFAS are highly persistent in both the environment and the human body. They do not break down easily and can accumulate over time. Research suggests that long-term exposure may lead to adverse health effects.

When PFAS are found in drinking water, they are typically linked to specific industrial or waste sites, such as landfills, wastewater treatment plants, or firefighting training facilities.

No PFAS has been detected in Leavenworth's source water.

Water Use Efficiency Results

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) is a statewide program established in 2003 to promote efficient water use, reduce leaks, and protect long-term supply. It requires all service connections to be metered and utilities to report on system losses annually.

The Department of Health requires each utility to calculate **Distribution System Leakage (DSL)** using this formula:

$$\%DSL = (\text{Water Produced} - \text{Water Consumed}) \div \text{Water Produced} \times 100$$

In 2025, Leavenworth's DSL was **11.1%**, bringing the City's three-year average to **15.9%**. The DOH goal is **10% or less**.

Per WAC 246-290-820, systems exceeding this threshold must implement a water loss control action plan. This may include leak detection, meter maintenance, and other corrective efforts. DOH works with systems to ensure the level of action matches the degree of leakage.

The City of Leavenworth replaced all water meters in 2021 and continues to repair leaks in the distribution system to lower DSL in future reporting years.

Cross Control Program

To protect public health, Washington State requires water systems to implement a Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program. A cross-connection is any actual or potential link between drinking water and non-potable substances. If backflow occurs, it can allow contaminants to enter the water supply.

The City of Leavenworth follows a **Premise Isolation** CCC Program, developed in accordance with DOH regulations (WAC 246-290-490). This program ensures that all potential cross-connections within customer plumbing systems are permanently controlled or eliminated.

Backflow prevention assemblies are installed immediately downstream of water meters to isolate the public water system from private plumbing. These devices must be tested annually to ensure proper function.

The City is actively surveying and bringing existing commercial services into compliance through inspections and outreach.

For questions, contact the City's Cross-Connection Control Specialist at **(509) 548-4235**.

Questions and Comments

If you have questions about this report, please contact the Water Treatment Plant at **(509) 548-4235**.

All decisions regarding the Water System Plan and infrastructure improvements are approved by the Leavenworth City Council. To learn more, you are welcome to attend City Council meetings, held on the **second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** at City Hall.

The City of Leavenworth routinely monitors drinking water for contaminants in accordance with federal and state regulations. This report includes results from testing conducted between **January 1 and December 31, 2025**.

All drinking water—both tap and bottled—may contain small amounts of naturally occurring substances. Their presence does not necessarily pose a health risk.