Information From The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Your drinking water comes from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (in some cases, radioactive material) and it can be polluted by animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be found in untreated water include: microbes, pesticides, herbicides, metals, organic and inorganic chemicals, and radioactive materials.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water distributed by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Special Information Available

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. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

How Can I Get Involved In Decisions Affecting My Drinking Water?

The City of Renton welcomes your interest in its water system. The Renton City Council is the City's decision-making body. The City Council meets on the first four Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the 7th floor of Renton City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way. For meeting information or scheduled agenda items, please call the City Clerk's office at (425) 430-6510.

Planning/Building/Public Works
City of Renton
1055 South Grady Way
Renton WA 98055

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Lead And Copper Sampling At Your Home Water Tap

The EPA requires monitoring for the presence of lead and copper with the goal to minimize human exposure to lead and copper found in drinking water. Lead and copper are not detected in Renton's water sources. However, our water is naturally corrosive and may cause lead and/or copper in your home plumbing to leach into your drinking water.

In 1993, the City of Renton tested for the presence of lead and copper in water drawn from 75 household taps. None of the tap samples tested for lead exceeded the EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion, but 63 of the 75 tap samples tested for copper exceeded the EPA's action level of 1.3 parts per million.

The City of Renton Corrosion Control Treatment Facilities (CCTF)

The EPA has special requirements for water systems when copper levels at the tap exceed the action level. To comply with these regulations, the City constructed the Corrosion Control Treatment Facilities in 1998 and started the operation of the facilities in the spring of 1999. The primary treatment is the addition of sodium hydroxide to our water to raise the pH from below 7.0 to above 7.3. At this higher pH, the water is less corrosive to household plumbing. The City will test for lead and copper in household taps again in the fall of 1999. These results will be compared with those from earlier testing to determine the effectiveness of the Corrosion Control Treatment Facilities in reducing the levels of lead and copper at our customer's taps.

Cross-Connection Control Program

The City implements a cross connection control program to protect our water system. A cross connection is a physical connection between a potable water line and a plumbing fixture that contains non-potable materials. The City requires customers with cross-connections to install backflow prevention assemblies. These assemblies prevent contaminated water from flowing through a cross-connection and into our water supply system. As required by Washington State Law, these assemblies must be tested yearly by a state certified backflow assembly tester. For more information about our cross-connection control program, please call (425) 430-7210.

How Do We Protect Our Groundwater?

Preventing pollution is our first priority in protecting our groundwater. The City Council passed the Aquifer Protection Ordinance in 1992, which regulates the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in the area around our well field. The City regularly inspects businesses located in this area to ensure that they are in compliance with the ordinance. The City also maintains an extensive inventory of potential contaminant sources. The Renton Fire Department's HAZMAT Unit provides first response to any hazardous material spill within the City limits. To report a hazardous material spill, please call 911.

Our Aquifer Awareness Program provides public education materials emphasizing the protection of our groundwater. We ask our water users to use less harmful products and best management practices to protect our groundwater. Renton has been designated as a Groundwater Guardian Community by the National Groundwater Foundation for the last three years. For more information about our Aquifer Awareness Program, please call (425) 430-7210.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is bottled water safer to drink than my tap water and do I need a home water treatment device?

Some people choose to drink bottled water because they believe it is safer than tap water. This is not necessarily true. Tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and, as required by the Agency, is tested extensively. The results of these tests are provided in this report. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

The use of bottled water or a home water treatment device is a personal choice, which may be based on taste preferences. If, however, you use these products for health reasons, we suggest that you thoroughly research the product you are selecting to assure it offers the level of protection you are seeking.

What causes discolored water?

Rusty galvanized pipe in home plumbing systems is the usual cause of discolored water at your tap. Although it is aesthetically unappealing, this discoloration is not harmful. Your water will generally clear up after a few minutes of flushing. If the discoloration does not clear up after flushing for a few minutes, please contact the City of Renton Water Maintenance Department at (425) 235-2647 to report the problem. If your hot water is rusty, the water heater may need flushing. If you flush your water heater, please follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Is Renton's water soft or hard?

Renton's water falls within the soft range with about 3.0 grains per gallon of hardness. This means that dishwashing and clothes washing require less soap than in other areas where the water is hard.

Statistics About The City Of Renton's Water

In 1998....

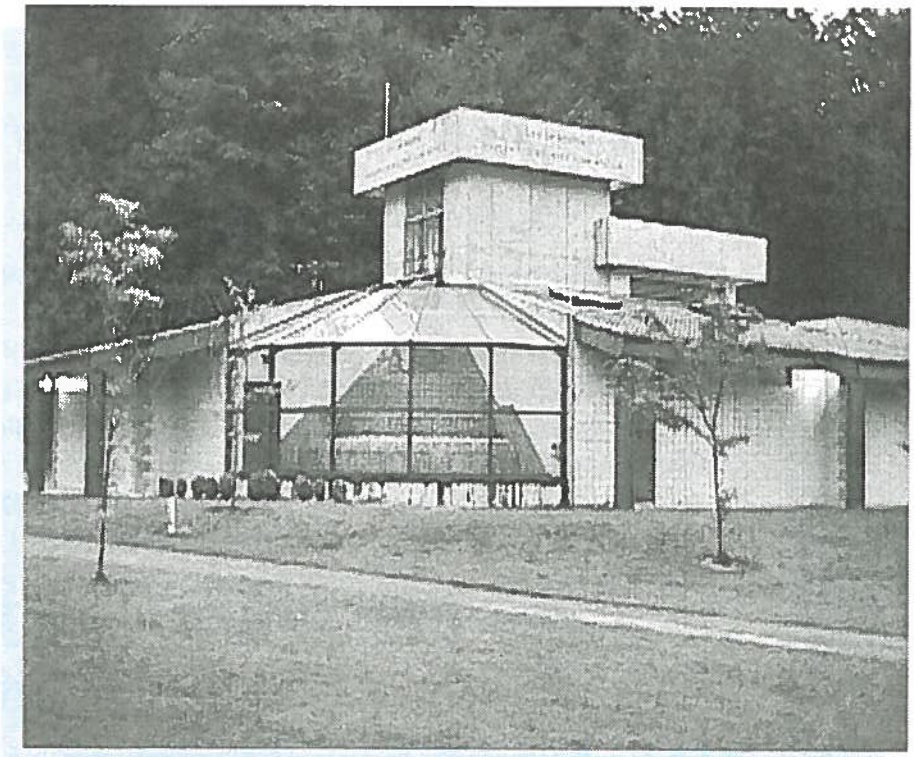
- Renton produced an average of 7.6 million gallons of drinking water per day.
- The greatest demand occurred on August 14, when Renton produced 15.2 million gallons of drinking water.
- The total volume of water produced by the Downtown Well Field was 2.4 billion gallons of drinking water.
- As of December, 1998, there were 13,595 water service connections to the Renton water system, including 10,288 single family and 1,342 multi-family connections. The remainder of the connections supplied commercial, industrial, and publicly owned facilities.
- The combined water storage capacity of all eight of Renton's water reservoirs is 15.5 million gallons.
- There are 269 miles of distribution lines in Renton's water system, ranging in diameter from 2 inches to 24 inches.

1999 - Water Quality Monitoring Results For Maplewood Wells

The 4 compounds listed below were detected in Maplewood drinking water in 1999. Not detected were over 167 other compounds including pesticides, herbicides, solvents, metals, viruses and bacteria. For additional information on the results of the Maplewood water quality testing, please call the Renton Water Utility Engineering Department at (425) 430-7210.

Detected Compounds	Highest Level Allowed (MCL*)	Ideal Goal (MCLG*)	Highest Level Detected and Range of Levels Detected	Possible Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Groundwater Source after Treatment				
Fluoride	4 ppm*	4 ppm	1.2 ppm (0.8 ppm - 1.2 ppm)	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Unregulated at the Groundwater Source				
Sodium	not regulated	not regulated	28 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	not regulated	not regulated	71 ppb*	Erosion of natural deposits.
Maximum Total Trihalomethane Potential	not regulated	not regulated	50.8 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

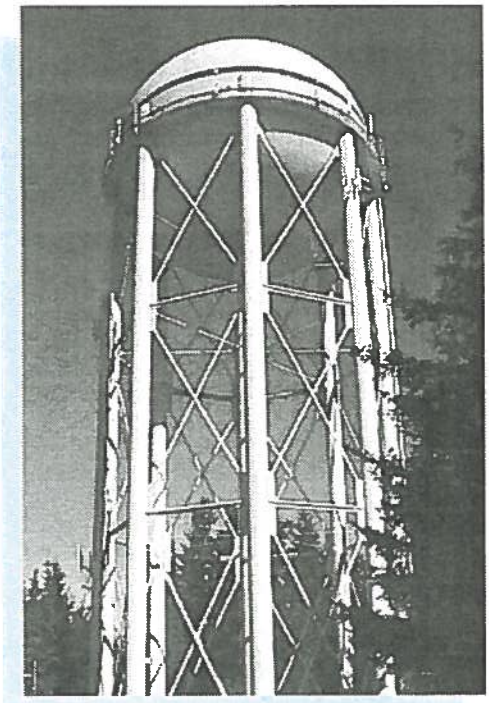
* **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as is feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
ppm - parts per million. One part per million is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons).
ppb - parts per billion. One part per billion is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1000 full bathtubs of water. (approximately 50,000 gallons).



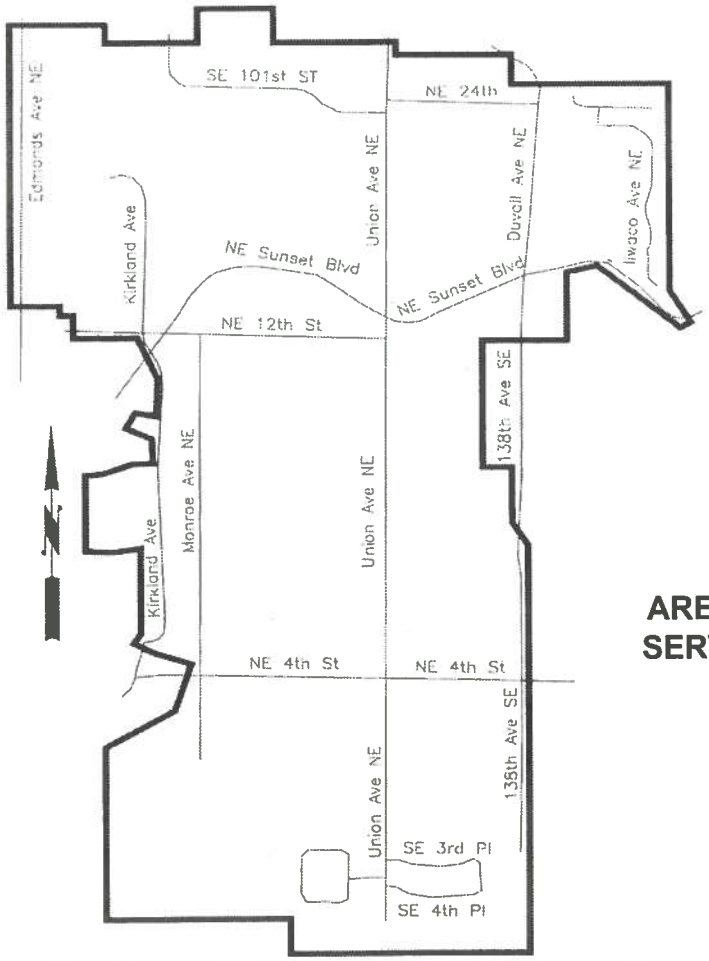
Maplewood Booster Pump Station and Water Treatment Facility

In 1999, A Portion Of The Renton Highlands Served With Maplewood Water

Many people who live in the Renton Highlands have noticed a change in the taste of their water. In June, 1999, the City of Renton began to supply a section of the Renton Highlands with drinking water from the Maplewood Wellfield. The Maplewood Wells tap a different and deeper water source, or aquifer, than the Downtown Wells. The City disinfects Maplewood water with chlorine which reacts with naturally occurring ammonia to form chloramines. Chloramines act as a secondary disinfectant to destroy any harmful bacteria that may enter the water distribution system. Sodium fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay. Sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide are also added to remove hydrogen sulfide. Ortho polyphosphates are added to prevent iron and manganese from precipitating out of the water. Iron and manganese precipitates can stain fixtures and clothing.



The Highlands Elevated Reservoir has served the Highlands for 40 years and has a storage capacity of 750,000 gallons.



AREA OF THE RENTON HIGHLANDS SERVED WITH MAPLEWOOD WATER

Water quality data from the Maplewood Wells along with a map that shows the area of the Highlands served by the wells are included in this report. If you would like more information regarding the water quality of the Maplewood Wells, please contact the Water Utility Engineering Department at (425) 430-7210.

1998 Water Quality Monitoring Results For Downtown Wells And Springbrook Springs

The eight compounds listed below were detected in Renton's drinking water in 1998 (1993 for lead and copper). Not detected were over 150 other compounds including pesticides, herbicides, solvents, metals, viruses and bacteria. For additional information on the results of our water quality testing, please call the Renton Water Utility Engineering Department at (425) 430-7210.

Detected Compounds	Highest Level Allowed (MCL*)	Ideal Goal (MCLG*)	Highest Level Detected and Range of Levels Detected	Possible Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Groundwater Source before Treatment				
Tetrachloroethylene	5 ppb*	0	0.52 ppb (non detect - 0.52 ppb)	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners.
Nitrate	10 ppm*	10 ppm	2.3 ppm (non detect - 2.3 ppm)	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.
Regulated at the Groundwater Source after Treatment				
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.27 ppm (0.85 ppm - 1.27 ppm)	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Unregulated at the Groundwater Source				
Sodium	not regulated	not regulated	7 ppm (non detect - 7 ppm)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate	not regulated	not regulated	14 ppm (non detect - 14 ppm)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Maximum Total Trihalomethane Potential	not regulated	not regulated	26.6 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Results of Lead and Copper Sampling at Residential Water Taps				
			90th Percentile Values*	
Lead	AL*=15 ppb	0 ppb	6 ppb (See Note 1)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	AL=1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	3.8 ppm (See Note 1)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

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

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) - 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.

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

ppm - parts per million. One part per million is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (approximately 50 gallons).

ppb - parts per billion. One part per billion is equivalent to 1/2 of a dissolved aspirin tablet in 1000 full bathtubs of water (approximately 50,000 gallons).

90th percentile – 90 percent of the samples tested had levels at or below this value (10 percent of the samples tested had levels above this value).

***Note 1**: None of the 75 samples tested exceeded the action level for lead. Sixty-three (63) of the 75 samples tested exceeded the action level for copper.*

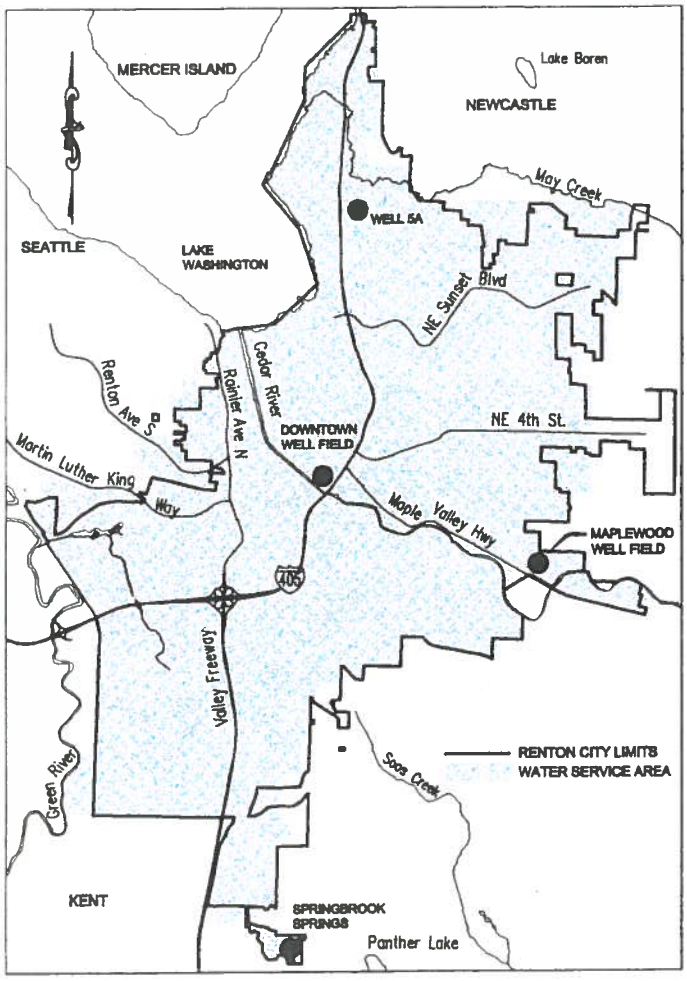
About Renton's Water Service Area

The City of Renton provides water to an area of 16 square miles, serving over 46,000 customers. Renton also supplies water to a small number of customers within Tukwila's city limits and to a portion of King County within Bryn-Mawr Lakeridge Water and Sewer District.

For additional information on the City's water service area, please call the Water Utility Engineering Department at (425) 430-7210.

Renton analyzes more than 1,200 water samples per year.

CITY OF RENTON WATER SUPPLY SOURCES



Water Treatment

To provide our customers with the safest water, Renton adds chlorine to the drinking water supply as a secondary disinfectant. Chlorine is added to the water at a rate of one part per million to destroy any harmful bacteria that may enter the water distribution system. Fluoride is also added to the water at a rate of one part per million to help prevent tooth decay. In 1985, the citizens of Renton voted to have fluoride added to the City's drinking water.

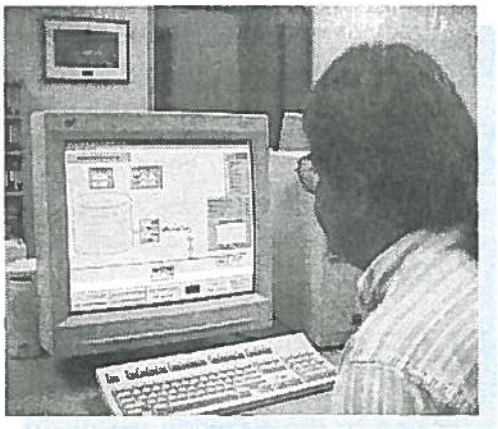
In January, 1999, the City of Renton began to treat its water supply with sodium hydroxide to make it less corrosive to pipes and home plumbing. For more information on water treatment, please refer to the section in this report titled "Lead and Copper Sampling At Your Home Water Tap."

October 1999

City of Renton

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

"Providing High Quality and Safe Drinking Water To Our Customers Is Renton's Highest Priority!"



A water quality supervisor monitors the operation of the City's water system at the control center.

The City of Renton is pleased to provide you with our Drinking Water Quality Report for **1998**. The purpose of this report is to inform our customers that the City's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards. The report describes where our water comes from, what it contains, how it compares to stringent water quality standards set by regulatory agencies and what we are doing to protect our water supply.

If you have questions about this report or would like additional information about our water, please call the City's Water Utility Engineering Department at (425) 430-7210 or visit our web site at http://www.ci.renton.wa.us.

Where Does Renton's Drinking Water Come From?

The primary source of Renton's drinking water is the Cedar Valley Aquifer. The aquifer is shallow with the water table only 20 feet below ground level. In 1998, the City of Renton supplied 85% of its drinking water from the Cedar Valley Aquifer using five wells located in the downtown area near Liberty and Cedar River Parks. The remainder of the water supply came from Springbrook Springs, located at the southern City limits.

Well Building in Liberty Park

Year 2000 – Y2K

The City of Renton Water Facilities are Y2K compliant. Information about the City's Y2K plans are available on the City's World Wide Web site at http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/y2k.