

Burton Water Company  
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## Consumer Confidence Report for 2019

### **Purpose**

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 requires that all water systems provide their customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. Its purpose is to assure customers that all federal and state requirements for water quality are met, and that their water is safe to drink.

### **Management**

The Burton Water Company is owned and operated by James Garrison and Evan Simmons. Please contact Jim or Evan at the above numbers for questions or emergencies.

### **Source of Water**

The Burton Water aquifer is 125 acres of fine sand bounded by a clay layer above and glacial till below. Our well field is located at 11611 SW 232<sup>nd</sup>. It consists of (2) 3.5 foot diameter concrete tile wells, (1) 12 inch diameter steel well, (17) 1 ½ inch pipe wells (well points), and one drilled well, all varying in depth between 18 and 30 feet.

### **Source water assessment**

We routinely have our water tested at Edge Analytical in Bellingham for coliform bacteria. We submit two samples from various locations monthly. Coliform bacteria is an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small organisms) that should not be present.

### **Contaminants (This section provided by the Washington State Department of 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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; organic industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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).

### **Definitions (This section provided by the Washington State Department of Health)**

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 or 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.

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

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. (The MRDL set by DOH is 4.0 mg/L. The chlorine level in water we distribute to customers meets the DOH CT-6 standard, which results in a chlorine level at most customer taps of .4-.6 mg/L, roughly one tenth of the maximum allowed.)

#### **Additional Information for 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. Burton Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing for lead in your water, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The copper and lead content of our water source is very low.

#### **Water Quality Test Results**

**Lead and Copper:** We are required to sample 10 homes for lead and copper every three years. The results of these tests have all met current Health Department standards.

**Bacteria:** We sample monthly for coliform bacteria, an indicator for potential disease-causing bacteria in water. In and of itself it is generally not a cause of disease. All samples taken in 2019 were negative for coliform.

**Other testing:** We routinely sample for many other potential contaminants, as required by the Department of Health. The results of these tests have all been satisfactory and are available to our customers upon request.

**Nitrates:** As most of you know, Misty Isle Farms owns the property directly north of our well field, and farming activities there, starting in the 90's, resulted in an increase in nitrate levels in our water. In recent years, the intensity of farming activity in our watershed has decreased. This appears to be a trend, and, as nitrates present due to plowing, fertilizing and manure are washed out of the system (and not replaced), we see a gradual lessening of this contaminant in our water. Burton Water Company monitors annually for nitrates and we are happy to say that our latest result was 1.58 mg/L, down from 1.66 the previous year and 2.0 the year before. We are very encouraged by this result and feel this makes a strong case against farming in our watershed in order to protect water quality. The maximum allowable contaminant level for drinking water is 10 mg/L.

**Recycled Asphalt Product:** During the summer of 2018, approximately two miles of gravel road in the Burton watershed were illegally resurfaced with asphalt millings removed from Vashon's main highway. We undertook legal action and were successful in having this potential contaminant removed from the watershed. Even though the material only sat for a short time, we will continue to monitor for contaminants from this material for the next four years. So far, we have seen no increase in harmful VOCs, IOCs, and PAHs.

**More test data:** We are in the process of making our test results available on our website at <http://burtonwater.com/tests.html>. All current water quality tests are viewable as PDFs.

#### **Privacy Policy**

We will under no circumstances, release, give away or sell any information about our customers. Your contact information will only be used for Company purposes.

#### **Please Note**

As population rises in our region, there is growing pressure to provide housing on Vashon and we have received increasing numbers of calls regarding water availability for accessory dwelling units.

An accessory dwelling unit requires a separate water service.

Burton Water does not allow two dwelling units to be served with a single water connection and we are obligated to discontinue service when this is the case. Burton Water Company's water right is fully allocated, and law prevents us from providing new services. Please help us avoid unnecessary enforcement actions by respecting this policy. If you have any questions please call Evan or Jim.

#### **Billing**

**Please send payments to: PO Box 1938, Vashon, WA 98070.** As always, you may still drop cash or check payments off at the Burton Store.

Online payments will be available at <http://burtonwater.com/payments.html> starting the 15th of June. We will accept ACH and credit/debit cards.

If you would like to receive your bill by email instead of paper post, please send your account number and preferred email contact to [bwc.billing@comcast.net](mailto:bwc.billing@comcast.net)

If you have questions about your account number or your bill, please contact Susan Graham at 206-714-3417.

