

Town of Friday Harbor

2019 Consumer Confidence Report on Water Quality



Surface water is the sole source of water for those served by the Town of Friday Harbor. Trout Lake, the primary source, is about five and a half miles west of Town in an isolated, undeveloped pocket fed by a steep drainage basin. The Town owns 600 acres of the surrounding 840 acre watershed.

Distribution System: detected levels of Primary Standards

(see Acronyms and Definitions on page 2)

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Maximum Reported Value	Range	Likely Source	Meets Regs?
Copper (¹)	Action Level: 90% of the homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	.387 ppm 2019 levels, tests required every 3 years	Not detected to .387 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	Yes
Lead (¹)	Action Level: 90% of the homes tested must have lead levels less than .015 ppm	0 ppm	.003 ppm 2019 levels, tests required every 3 years	Not detected to .003 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	Yes
Total Trihalo-methanes (THMs)	80 ppb	0 ppb	65.05 average for 2019(²)	46.1 to 95.1 ppb	By-products of chlorination process	Yes(³)

¹) Copper and lead are both naturally-occurring metals. Lead and copper have never been detected in the Town's source water. Both have been used to make household plumbing fixtures for many years, although Congress banned the installation of lead solder, pipes and fittings in 1986. The two contaminants get into drinking water when water reacts with these metals in pipes and fixtures. This is particularly likely to happen when water sits in pipes for more than a few hours. When lead or copper reach the action level in ten percent of the homes sampled, the water provider must begin certain water treatment steps.

The pH range of Friday Harbor water is 7.78 to 7.95 which lessens the corrosive potential of copper and lead. Until July 1998, WA State DOH required a random testing of ten homes once a year for the presence of copper and lead. The detection rates have been so low that these tests are now required every three years. The next testing date is July, 2022.

²) This test is performed once a quarter in the distribution system. Because the test results are averaged over four consecutive quarters, some values in the range may be higher than the maximum reported value.

³) In 2019 the THM yearly average was well below the MCL. Some people who drink water containing THMs over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. THM's are formed when organics in the water combines with chlorine. We implemented Granular activated carbon technology in 2011 which has significantly reduced THMs. **Please see page 4 for Friday Harbor's efforts regarding Trihalomethane Removal.** If you would like more information about THM's please call us at 360-378-8353.

Acronyms and Definitions

Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment technique or other requirement which a water system must follow.

Cryptosporidium

A tiny organism that is associated with the disease cryptosporidiosis. This disease can be transmitted by swallowing the organism in contaminated water or food, person-to-person contact, or other exposure routes.

EPA

Environmental Protection Agency. A federal level agency.

Fecal Coliform

Fecal coliforms and *E.coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes.

Giardia

A tiny organism that is associated with the disease giardiasis. Swallowing this organism in contaminated food or water, exposure from person-to-person contact, and other exposure routes may cause this disease.

Hardness

Hardness is an indication of the amount of dissolved minerals in water. Friday Harbor water has a range of hardness values from 80-100 ppm, which is considered "medium soft."

Inorganic Chemicals

Examples include things like metals, minerals and salts.

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 feasible using the best treatment technology.

MCLG

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

ND Not Detected.

NTU

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Unit of measure used to describe water clarity.

PAH

Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons. A group of Synthetic Organic Compounds that are tested for.

pH

Indicates whether a liquid is acidic or basic. Friday Harbor water has a pH range of 7.0 to 8.3 which lessens the corrosive potential of copper and lead.

ppb

parts per billion. One ppb is approximately equal to 1 drop of water in a 22,000 gallon swimming pool.

ppm

parts per million. The same as mg/l (milligram per liter). One ppm is approximately equal to 1 drop of water in 22 gallons.

Primary Standards

Legally-enforceable standards that apply to public water systems. Primary standards limit the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or are anticipated to occur in water.

Secondary Standards

Non-enforceable guidelines regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects, such as tooth discoloration, or aesthetic effects, such as taste, color or odor, in drinking water.

SRL

State Regulatory Level. Standards that are set by WA State DOH and may supersede federal levels.

SOC

Synthetic Organic Chemicals. Examples include such things as weed killers, fertilizers and bug spray.

Total Coliform

A group of bacteria that can be naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. A treatment technique may be required by the EPA or WA State DOH.

Turbidity

Describes how cloudy the water is. The smaller the number, the clearer the water. Turbidity has no health effects, however, it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

VOC

Volatile Organic Chemicals. Examples include things like petroleum-based chemicals, industrial by-products and dry cleaning solvents.

WA State DOH

Washington State Department of Health.

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In 2019 the Town's water system produced 115,787,000 gallons with system leakage of 7,064,093 gallons. Unaccounted-for water at the end of 2019 was 6.1%. This was accomplished by early leak detection technology and meter replacement. The Town of Friday Harbor's goal is to reduce unaccounted-for water. The percentage of line loss reflects the integrity of the distribution system the DOH mandates no more than 10% loss. Authorized consumption will be reduced through consumer education and aging main replacement. Through conservation efforts we saved approximately 2.7 million gallons in 2019 compared to 2018. We are currently implementing leak detection, meter replacement, a low flush toilet rebate program, consumer education, and replacement of aging mains in the distribution system. In 2016 and 2017 we replaced 5 miles of transmission main from the plant and new transmission pipe from the dam to the treatment plant eliminating undetectable leaks and minimized potential damage to the transmission pipe in an earthquake event. 1700 feet of AC distribution pipe was replaced in 2019.

The DOH advises that all 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Some people may be more vulnerable to drinking water contaminants than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as people 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/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available at www.epa.gov/safewater or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Improvements to the Town Water System

The Town of Friday Harbor was in total compliance for 2019 and well below all maximum contaminate levels. The Town's water supply is unique in that the water obtained is primarily rain water and run off from the basin there are very little sources of potential contamination from the surrounding areas. The water utilized is already relatively pure and we enjoy a low turbidity before treatment even begins. To ensure safe potable water Friday Harbors Water department performs 3 chlorine residuals throughout the system each day, 7 days a week, as well as 3-5 monthly coliform samples which is an indicator of any potential contamination. We also employ a diligent Cross Connection Control program to prevent any backflow contamination from occurring. We are constantly monitoring all aspects of water treatment and distribution from Trout Lake to the 12 miles of distribution pipes to our customers, with the ultimate goal of delivering the highest quality water to each individual 24/7/365 days per year.

The Town's water department voluntarily participates in the stringent DOH program which challenges operators to exceed the minimum legal standards for three consecutive years. The water department is proud to announce that we have earned the bronze award for 3 consecutive years of stringent requirements based on several goals which pertain to higher than required water quality compliance rules. According to Town Public Works Director Wayne Haefele, the DOH set an extremely difficult goal. "It requires that water systems make the TOP goal a priority in everything we do and every decision we make," said Haefele. TOP Award winners must maintain extreme water clarity, known as low "turbidity", while simultaneously complying with every other measurement of water quality without exception for three consecutive years. Turbidity is considered one of the most dependable tests for confirming the removal of potential pathogenic organisms from water. The Town of Friday Harbor replaced 7 miles of asbestos transmission pipe in 2017. Although this type of pipe does not pose a health threat, after 50 years of service the time had come to upgrade to newer virtually indestructible high density polyethylene or HDPE pipe. HDPE's outstanding performance means that consumers get the very best, cleanest water possible. The pipe replacement program realized an additional 1000 ft of pipe upgrade on Tucker Avenue which replaced 50s era AC pipe with c-900 polyethylene pipe. The Town added multiple valve stations to better manage the distribution system. Web street was also upgraded in 2018 with an additional 700 ft replaced.

The presence of algae in Trout Lake causes taste and odor effects which is normally a seasonal event, but algae blooms can occur at any time under certain climate changes. To minimize or prevent this occurrence, three platforms known as solar bees were deployed in Trout Lake in 2006. Solar Bee's use long distance circulation to solve water quality problems in fresh water lakes and reservoirs and provide significant energy savings by relying on solar power. They also eliminate the need for toxic chemicals. The Solar Bee is a floating solar-powered reservoir circulator. The Solar Bee draws water up from below and spreads it gently across the top of the water body for continuous surface renewal.

Each Solar Bee unit can displace and mix 10,000 GPM in freshwater reservoirs. The Solar Bee long-distance circulation greatly accelerates the biological and chemical processes that clean up non-potable water. The high efficiency Solar Bee circulation can reduce up to 100% of the chemical requirement in algae control in potable water systems. Solar bees eliminate the need for algaecides and herbicides, as well as phosphorus-binding compounds such as alum.

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. The Town of Friday Harbor is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the SafeDrinkingWaterHotlineat<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Trout Lake Treatment Plant: detected levels of Primary Standards

(see Acronyms and Definitions on page 2)

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Maximum Reported Value	Range	Likely Source	Meets Regs?
Turbidity (4)	0.5 NTU	Not applicable	.08 NTU Highest monthly average occurred May/ 2020	.03 to 0.14 NTU Based on daily samples	Erosion of soils	Yes 100% of samples met turbidity limits

4) Turbidity has no health effects, however turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Washington State Department of Health requires treatment facilities to provide full filtration and disinfection.

Trihalomethane Removal Status

Since the new granular activated carbon (GAC) filters were put on line in 2011 the Friday Harbor Water Utility has successfully achieved the goal of significantly reducing the amount of (THM) trihalomethane acids to well below the maximum contaminate levels or MCL, as required by the Department of Health. With this highly effective organic removal system, the Water Utility now reports a yearly average of only 65.05 ppb while the current maximum allowance is 80 ppb. The GAC filter's purpose is to capture organics in the water, preventing a chemical reaction with chlorine that could create a disinfected by-product such as trihalomethane acids. The GAC filters should keep our water supply at its highest quality for years to come. The sampling for THMs are taken at the farthest region of the system where the highest concentrations would be identified. Therefore regular flushing occurs to eliminate build up.

- **Primary standards limit the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or are anticipated to occur in water.** As of 2019 all levels of Primary Standards were below the MCL or non detectable in the Trout Lake Treatment water shed. Based on this and previous sampling, the Washington State Department of Health waived reporting through December 2024.
- **The following substances were tested for but not detected or below the MCL:**

Volatile Organics - In 2019 these substances were not detected. The Town received a waiver until 10/24 of no need to test. Herbicides are tested once every 3 years. The results from 01/19 warranted a State waiver for no testing for Synthetic Organic testing until 2022. Inorganics are tested every 9 years per State waiver based on the results from 12/11. The Town continues to test for other substances including pesticides, and radiological substances which are currently nonexistent in our water.

