

CITY OF LYNDEN  
PROVIDES

# Exceptional water for you!

The City of Lynden is pleased to provide you with our Annual Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report for 2014. Our water system is a surface water system served by the Nooksack River. Lynden's treatment plant uses coagulation, sedimentation, and filtration techniques to remove suspended particles that may contaminate the water. Chlorine is added as a disinfectant to make sure the water is free of harmful microorganisms and fluoride is added for enhanced dental protection.

A new Water Treatment Plant is in the final stages of completion and is expected to be completed by the end of Summer 2015. It will replace the existing plant built in 1926. The new plant will improve treatment capacity, effectiveness, and reliability by expanding on these

proven treatment technologies. It will ensure that Lynden residents continue to enjoy safe and high quality potable water for many years to come.

In 2008 the City established water conservation goals which are reported annually to the State. These goals were met for 2014 and will be updated in 2015.

### THE CITY OF LYNDEN REMINDS YOU TO USE WATER WISELY.

Total Water Produced	Authorized Consumption	Distribution System Leakage	Goal Met (Distribution Leakage Standards)
585 MG	569 MG	2.8%	< 10 %

Numbers reflect calendar year 2014

### YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOMED!

Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions related to your drinking water may be directed to the Public Works Department at 360-354-3446. Public Works policy decisions are discussed at the Lynden City Council Public Works Committee meetings that are held on the Wednesday after the first Monday of the month at 4:30 PM at City Hall.



City of Lynden

"The City of Lynden is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

For more information regarding this report, please contact:

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The City of Lynden is a partner of the Whatcom Water Alliance, a regional water conservation group in Whatcom County. Alliance partners share a passion in providing clean and safe

water to protect your health, planet and quality of life. Your investment in our water and sewer infrastructure through utility rates helps to keep it functional for current and future generations.



Indispensable to jobs, the economy, our health and our communities, water runs through our lives in many ways. Everyone uses water and everyone is responsible for it. We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. To learn more, visit [www.watersworthit.org](http://www.watersworthit.org). WATER'S WORTH IT™ is a trademark of the Water Environment Federation.

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City of Lynden  
300 4th Street, Lynden WA 98264

# CITY OF LYNDEN water Quality Report

## 2014





## WHY PROVIDE A

### Water Quality Report?

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided 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.

# WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2014

PWS# 491504

## MESSAGE FROM THE

### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in 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 drinking 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

For more information on tap water quality, please visit [www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)



Substance (units)	Goal (MCLG)*	EPA's Allowable Limits (MCL)*	Average Level Detected	Range Detected or Overall Results	Source of Substance	In Compliance?
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#### RAW WATER (BEFORE TREATMENT)

Total Organic Carbon (ppm)*	Not applicable	Not applicable	1.4	0.4-2.1	Naturally present in the environment	Yes
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#### REGULATED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT

Fluoride (ppm)*	4	4	.07 running average	0.0 - 1.2	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	1.0 TT*	.02	.02 - 0.19	Soil run-off	Yes
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)*	Not applicable	Not applicable	0.6	0.2 - 0.9	Naturally present in the environment	Yes

#### REGULATED AT THE CONSUMER TAP

Chlorine (ppm)*	MRDLG*= 4	MRDL*= 4	.05 running average	Zero samples exceeded MRDL*	Water additive used to control microbes.	Yes
Copper (ppm)*	1.3	1.3 AL*	0.014	In 2014, zero sites exceeded AL*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Lead (ppb) *	0	15 AL*	.001	In 2014, zero sites exceeded AL*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)*	Not applicable	60	16	15 - 17	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	More than 1 positive sample per month	0	120 samples collected	Naturally present in the environment	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)*	Not applicable	80	20	15 - 23	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Yes

Substance	Lynden tap water average	Lynden tap water maximum
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#### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS RULE 3 MONITORING (UCMR 3)

Vanadium (ppb)	0.39	0.57
Strontium (ppb)	72	94
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	0.11	.15
Chlorate (ppb)	37	49

\*Key to abbreviations used in chart: UNIT DESCRIPTIONS: ppm (Parts per Million), ppb (Parts per Billion), mg/L (Milligrams per Liter)

**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.

**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 available treatment technology.

**MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. 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.

**MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. 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 (e.g. chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide).

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

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

**NTU** Turbidity: Turbidity is a measure of the water's cloudiness. It is monitored because it provides a good indicator of the filtration system's effectiveness. Turbidity is measured in NTU's nephelometric turbidity units.

**ND** Not detected

**EPA** Environmental Protection Agency

**CDC** Center for Disease Control & Prevention