



# Fruitland Mutual Water Company

## Water Quality Report 2023

### Water Quality Report

We at the Fruitland Mutual Water Company (FMWC) are pleased to inform you that your drinking water meets all State and Federal health standards. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

For more information regarding this report please contact:

Ted Hardiman

General Manager

ted@fruitlandwater.com or (253) 848-5519

### Water Treatment

The quality of water FMWC serves to its customers requires no treatment to meet the minimum requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Washington Department of Health or the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. We do however, disinfect the water with sodium hypochlorite to remain bacteria free in the distribution system. Our average hardness is approximately 90 ppm or mg/l in the 556 zone and 122 ppm or mg/l in the 610 zone. The average PH is 6.97. If you would like to know which zone your residence is located in call the above listed number and staff will get you that information.

Description	Hardness (mg/l)
Extremely soft	0-45
Soft	46-90
Moderately Hard	91-130
Hard	131-170
Very hard	171-250
Excessively Hard	Over 250

### Water Supply

The FMWC's primary source of supply is ground water pumped from the Frederickson Aquifer located at or near sea-level. There are five active wells supplying water to the system. The company has a second source through a wholesale connection with Tacoma Public Utilities. The aquifer is protected from potential sources of contamination by a cooperative effort from the water companies that draw water from it. This effort is known as the "Wellhead Protection Plan".

A copy of this plan can be viewed at the Company office.

### Capacities

FMWC has the capability to draw 3850 gallons per minute and store 4,000,000 gallons within the system. This is adequate and sufficient to serve the residences and commercial activities in service area.

### Sources of Contaminants

The FMWC routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal, State and local laws. The tables on page 3 show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants do not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

### Lead and Copper

Fruitland Water began regular lead and copper sampling in 1992 and has always met standards established by the regulatory agencies. As shown in the table on page 3, the last round of lead and copper sampling demonstrated that the company met the 90th percentile rule. The Company's next round of sampling will be in the summer of 2026.

### Special Precautions

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune system 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. Fruitland Water is 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 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, (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

## Fruitland Mutual Water Company's

### Water Use Efficiency Program

Water Produced	608,077,377
Water sold/accounted for	578,388,571
Difference	29,688,806
2023 Percentage lost	4.88%
2022 Percentage lost	3.98%
2021 Percentage lost	3.42%



### Water Conservation

Water is one of our most valuable resources. In our area approximately one inch of water per week will keep a lawn healthy. Please remember to check your irrigation system regularly for proper operation. The Company continues to use leak detection equipment two times a year, to help find leakage. Your help is still needed, if you notice green or damp patches in your yard, around water meters or fire hydrants let our company know so staff can verify the cause.

The company has come a long ways in the last ten years, bringing down the amount of lost water. Ten years ago it was common to see loses in the 15-18% range, now percentage has been under 10% for the last four years and the company will keep working to reduce it more.

### Bacteriological Analysis

Fruitland Mutual Water Company conducts routine bacteriological tests on the distribution system continuously throughout the year. We submit a minimum of 180 samples for bacteriological analysis annually. In addition to this minimum, we submit construction, investigative and engineering samples. All bacteriological samples tested in 2023 resulted in negative detection for coliform bacteria. The company has an excellent record with the monthly bacteria samples with no detections going back to 1995 when chlorination was implemented. The decision to add chlorine was to protect for the unknown in the distribution system. It is a good and necessary backup in case of leaks, breaks or depressurization events in the main and service lines.

\*\*Fruitland Mutual Water Company water system, ID # 26800F, located in Pierce County is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring indicate whether your drinking water meets health standards. During September and October 2023, we did not monitor or test for coliform bacteria or collected fewer samples than we were required to collect. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. New protocols and procedures are in place to avoid this in the future.

At this time:

No action is required by the users.

We collected the routine coliform sample required for the month of November and the lab found no coliform bacteria.

We will collect samples in the future as required.

For more information, contact: Ted Hardiman G.M., 253-848-5519, [customerservice@fruitlandwater.com](mailto:customerservice@fruitlandwater.com)

### Water Quality Data Table

The table on the next page lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires the water company to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Not shown in the table are 29 inorganic chemicals that are all below the established MCL , 81 synthetic organic chemicals, all non-detected and 63 volatile organic chemicals, all non-detectable. Fruitland Water is very fortunate that the water being drawn is of such good quality, that no additional treatment or filtering is necessary.

## Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of contaminant present 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.
AL (Action Level)	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRL	Minimum reporting level
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection 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 disinfection 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.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated.
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level.
PPM	Parts per million
PPB	Parts per billion

Substance	MCLG OR MRDL	MCL, TT OR MRDL	Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfection By-products						
HAA (Haloacetic Acids)	NA	60ppb	None Detected	2023	No	By product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Trihalomethanes)	NA	80ppb	Low 1.45- High 4.56 ppb	2023	No	By product of drinking water disinfection

Substance	Well 2A	Well 3	Well 3A	Well 4	Well 5A	Typical Source
Other Regulated Water Quality Tests Performed						
Nitrates (MCL 10)	3.11ppm	3.10 ppm	3.09 ppm	3.07 ppm	<0.20 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. MCL of 10 ppm.
Radium 228 (MCL 5.0)	0.0577	<0.184	<0.173	<0.203	<0.186	Erosion of natural deposits. MCL 5
Gross Alpha (MCL 15.0)	<3.00	<3.00	<3.00	<3.00	<3.00	Erosion of natural deposits. MCL 15

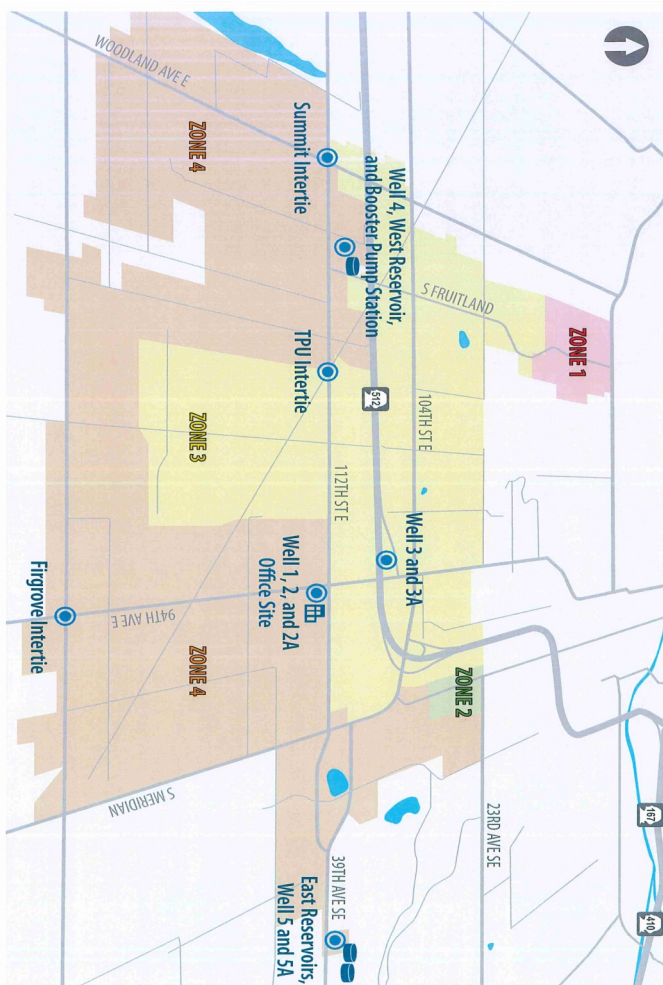
Substance	# of Samples	# of Samples Submitted	Highest Level	# samples exceeding regulatory action level	Further Action Req.	Typical Source
Lead and Copper						
Lead	42	42	0.006 ppm	2	None	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	42	42	0.87 ppm	0	None	Corrosion of house-

Next round of lead and copper sampling is scheduled for summer of 2026 Fruitland Mutual Water Company has tested for dissolved Lead and Copper in the drinking water at the customers tap, pursuant to the regulations established by the USEPA. Water samples were drawn from the taps of selected homes suspected of having copper pipe with leaded joints (no longer an acceptable practice). After the 1996 results, annual testing was waved by WSDOH allowing for tri-annual testing. Fruitland Water currently meets the standard set by USEPA and requires no additional treatment for lead and copper.

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5) Results

EPA regulations require us to monitor these contaminants while EPA considers setting limits on them. There were 25 contaminants tested for. Two were detected at Well 2A and four at Well 3. It will be a couple years before the EPA finishes collecting data and makes decisions on what actions are necessary at what levels. All four well sites were part of the testing.

Analyte	Result	Reporting level	Unit	Source
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	0.0049	0.0030	ug/L	Well 2A
Perfluoropentanoic acid	0.0030	0.0030	ug/L	Well 2A
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	0.0048	0.0030	ug/L	Well 3
Perfluorohexanoic acid	0.0030	0.0030	ug/L	Well 3
Perfluorooctanoic acid	0.0040	0.0030	ug/L	Well 3
Perfluoropentanoic acid	0.0030	0.0030	ug/L	Well 3



### Understanding Units of Measurement

Concentrations in water can also be expressed as parts per million (ppm) or parts per billion (ppb). Parts per million and parts per billion may be converted from one to the other using this relationship: 1 part per million = 1,000 parts per billion. For water, 1 ppm = approximately 1 mg/L (also written as mg/l) of contaminant in water, and 1 ppb = 1 ug/L (also written as ug/l). A measurement of 6 mg/L is the same as 6 ppm or 6,000 ppb, which is equal to 6,000 ug/L. A way to visualize one part per billion (ppb) in water is to think of it as one drop in one billion drops of water or about one drop of water in a swimming pool. One part per million is about 1 cup of water in a swimming pool. Going by the levels in the above table these amounts would be in the parts per trillion or a drop of water in 1000 swimming pools.