THE CITY OF FIRCREST

2026 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY & WATER USE EFFICIENCY REPORT

The City of Fircrest Public Works

Serving our community with safe, high quality, reliable, dependable drinking water. This is a vital mission of the Fircrest Public Works Department. We partner with our residents to promote efficient water use, helping protect our environment and preserve precious water resources for generations to come.

The City of Fircrest Public Works Department PWS ID# 25150T proudly presents this 2026 Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency Report, based on our 2025 data.

A MESSAGE TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

Last year your tap water met all US EPA and State drinking water health standards. The City of Fircrest vigilantly safeguards its water supply. We are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

All public water systems are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Washington and the Department of Health to provide all their water customers with annual reports on the drinking water provided and the City's water conservation efforts.

This brochure includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

Where does our water come from?

The City owns and operates the water system which consists of five ground wells and three reservoir tanks with a storage capacity of 1.8 million gallons. The water comes from two underground aquifers called the Vashon Advance Outwash and the Colvos Sand. All water that is provided by the City of Fircrest is chlorinated and fluoridated.

Why are there contaminants in my water? The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants, you may call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791). To assure the water system remains free of coliform bacteria, the city has implemented a disinfection system to the water system.

Wellhead Protection Plan Fircrest is completely dependent on groundwater. To protect the City's many wellheads, the focus is on human activity on the land above the water-bearing zones called aquifers. The city has developed a Wellhead Protection Plan that has been approved by the State Department of Health. The objective is to reduce the risks of water supply contaminations by chemicals or other materials that might make the water supply unusable.

Contaminants that may be present in source water prior to treatment include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can naturally occur or result from urban stormwater runoff, domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
Pesticides & herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining or farming.
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
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 City of Fircrest 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. 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 1-800-426-4791, or at ww.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Protecting Your Water Quality with Cross-Connection Control

What is a "Cross Connection"?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable water supply and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas (i.e. pipe, tank, plumbing fixture, or device) through which it is possible for used, polluted, or contaminated water or any other substance to enter the public water system.

Protection of the Water Distribution System

Installation of plumbing in compliance with the plumbing code should provide adequate protection from contamination.

Common Household Hazards

Chemical Spray Applicators The chemicals used on your lawn and garden can be toxic or fatal if ingested. These chemicals include pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers and strong cleaning chemicals.
Submerged Hoses Water held in pools, ponds or other vats open to the air and exposed to humans or animals may contain microbiological contaminants.
Underground Lawn Irrigation Systems often have puddles of water around the sprinkler heads. Sprinkler heads are not designed to be drip-tight under backflow conditions. The puddles of water may contain microbiological contaminants.

How Contamination Occurs Water normally flows in one direction, from the public water system through the customer's cold or hot water plumbing to a sink tap or another plumbing fixture. The plumbing fixture is the end of the potable water system and the start of the waste disposal system. Under certain conditions water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as backflow. Backflow occurs when a back siphonage or backpressure condition is created in a water line. **Back siphonage** may occur due to a loss of pressure in the water distribution system during a high withdrawal of water for fire protection, a water main or plumbing system break, or a shutdown of a water main or plumbing system for repair. A reduction of pressure below atmospheric pressure creates a vacuum in the piping. **Backpressure** may be created when a source of pressure, such as a pump, creates a pressure greater than that supplied from the distribution system.

TABLE 1 – Regulated Monitoring & Sampling Frequencies:

Substance	Sample Requirement	Frequency	Next Sample Due
Fluoride	Almost daily at entry point to distribution center locations	Nearly daily	Continuous
Chlorine Residual	Almost daily at entry point to distribution center locations	Nearly daily	Continuous
Nitrate	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Annually	2026
Complex Inorganic(IOC)	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 9 years	2027
Volatile Organics (VOC)	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 6 years	2026
Herbicides	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 9 years	2034
Pesticides	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 9 years	2034
Gross Alpha	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 3 years	2028
Radium 228	1 sample after treatment & before distribution system	Once every 3 years	2028
Lead and Copper	20 samples from residential faucets	Once every 3 years	2028
Asbestos	1 sample from coliform sampling site	Once every 9 years	2032
Total Trihalomethane (THM)	1 sample per Fircrest's Disinfection Byproducts monitoring plan	Annually	2026
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	1 sample per Fircrest's Disinfection Byproducts monitoring plan	Annually	2026
Coliform	8-9 samples from points throughout distribution system	Monthly	Continuous

TABLE 2 - Sample Monitoring Results:

Substance	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detection	Potential Source
REGULATED AT GROUNDWATER SOURCES				
Fluoride	4 ppm	0.52 ppm	0.24-1.11 ppm	Treatment Additive
Nitrate	10 ppm	2.24 ppm	1.8-4.18 ppm	Erosion of Natural Deposits
REGULATED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSYEM				
Chlorine Residual	4 ppm	1.08 ppm	0.00-1.40 ppm	Treatment Additive
Coliform	5%	ND	ND	Naturally Present in the Environment
REGULATED AT DISTRIBUTION SYSYEM				
Total Trihalomethane (THM)	80 ppb	0.67 ppb	ND-1.57 PPB	Disinfection Interaction
Halo-Acetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	ND	ND	Disinfection Interaction

Definitions: **ppm** – parts per million **ppb** – parts per billion mg/L – milligrams per liter

Maximum Contaminant Level of MCL: The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements that a water system must follow.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

In 2003 the State legislature passed the Municipal Water Law directing the State Department of Health to adopt a rule establishing water use efficiency requirements for all municipal water suppliers. The goal of the rule is to conserve water for future generations and the environment. This will help ensure enough water remains available regionally to meet your needs and the needs of our community as well as that of wildlife and the environment.

The Washington State Department of Health requires municipal water suppliers to establish a water conservation goal and report on its progress annually. The City of Fircrest believes water conservation should be an everyday practice and the prevention of unnecessary leakage as well as the minimization of wasteful, inefficient water usage or practices are goals that all water users should be aware of and should improve upon whenever possible.

The City of Fircrest promotes water conservation, which was established in the Water System Plan's conservation plan in 2020, by offering customers free low flow/water efficiency items and educational materials at the Public Works Building as well as at City of Fircrest events.

Our focus on efficient use of water helped us maintain and exceed our previous goal set on the demand side at 0.2% average annual consumption, and work towards exceeding our current goal of reducing summer water "demand" by a total of 0.5 within 6 years.

2025 Annual Water Use Efficiency Performance
Total Water Produced 243,090,017 gal.
Authorized Consumption 241,231,199 gal.
Distribution Sys. Leakage 1,858,818 gal.
Distribution System Leakage .8%

3 Year Annual Average 3.2% (2023, 2024 & 2025)

Additional Conservation Efforts

The City has completed work on changing out all our single-family residential meters from manually read meters to AMI/automatic read meters. This meter exchange program not only ensures accurate meter readings on each billing cycle but also replaced old malfunctioning meters. We have found that our manually read meters were beginning to die and were not registering accurate water consumption. The new meters allow us to notify you, our customers, of potential leaks in your water service line quicker and with more accuracy, assisting in our efforts in minimizing water loss, it allows us to offer real time analysis that will be available for our water consumers. We processed 33 leak adjustments for 2025.

Visit www.cityoffircrest.net/government/public-works-department/water/water-conservation-tips orwww.epa.gov/watersense for more information on how to conserve water.

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