



Testing for PFAS and Keeping Your Drinking Water Safe

PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a category of manufactured chemicals used in everyday products since the 1940s. They are used to produce items like waterproof jackets, food packaging, and nonstick pans. PFAS are also found in firefighting foams and their use at airports and military bases has been linked to the contamination of aquifers. If detected in drinking water, PFAS have the potential to raise health concerns.

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). SPU provides some of the highest quality drinking water in the nation because it comes from pristine protected mountain sources. SPU's drinking water remains safe and protected from contaminants including PFAS.

Although PFAS had not been previously regulated and routine testing was not required before 2023, SPU conducted testing in 2015, 2018, and 2022 and there were no detections of PFAS in SPU's drinking water supply from the Cedar and Tolt watersheds. Those test results can be found on SPU's website at www.seattle.gov/utilities/PFAS. In March 2023, SPU conducted another round of PFAS testing. These test results were not available before publication of this newsletter. They will be posted on SPU's website when they become available.

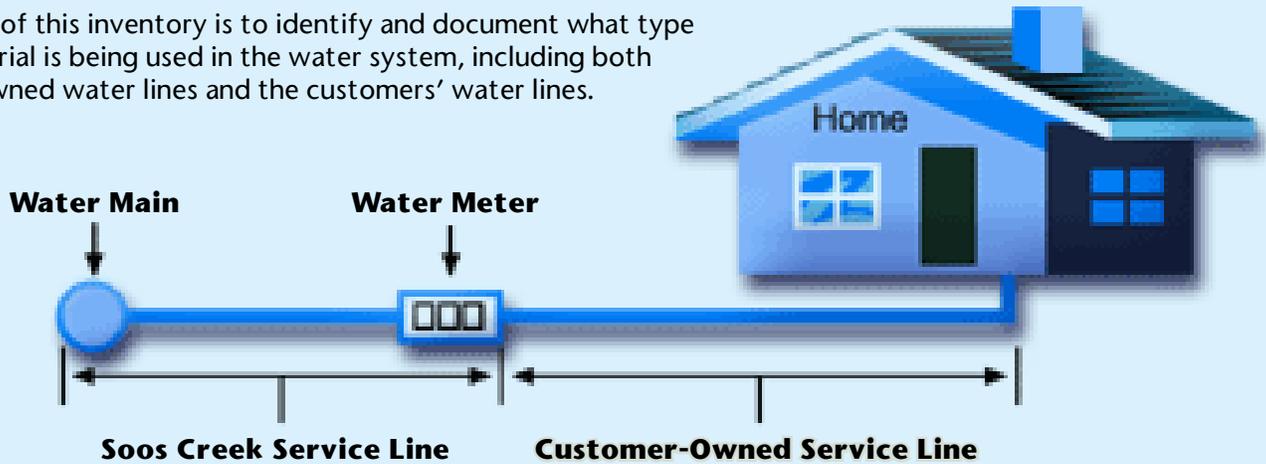
For more information about PFAS, including the health and safety risks associated with these compounds, visit the Environmental Protection Agency website at www.epa.gov/pfas and the Washington State Department of Health website at www.doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas.



EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed new regulations (LCRR) to better protect communities from exposure to lead and copper in the Nation's drinking water. The EPA is requiring all public water systems to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory, with results provided back to the EPA by October 2024.

The purpose of this inventory is to identify and document what type of pipe material is being used in the water system, including both the utility-owned water lines and the customers' water lines.



Two parts of the Service Line need to be assessed:

- District-Owned: the line that runs from the District's water main to your water meter; and ...
- Customer-Owned: the service line that runs from the water meter to your home.

SCWSD does not use lead material in our lines from the main to the meter, and King County banned the use of lead service lines in the late 1960s. However, homes built before 1968 may have lead pipe in the customer-owned portion of the water line (the service line between the water meter and the home).

This is where we need your help

If your home was built prior to 1968, we will be asking you to fill out a survey to help us gather as much information as possible. When the survey is available, it will be noted on your bill and on the SCWSD website. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Water Supply Outlook

Based on current conditions and forecasts, Seattle Public Utilities anticipates that the regional water system will have sufficient water supply for people and fish through 2023. As always, we continue to ask customers to use water wisely. For information about ways to save water, visit: www.savingwater.org.

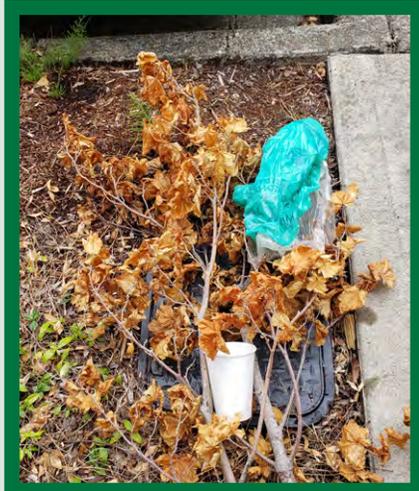


Please Keep Clear Access to Your Meter

Most water meter boxes are located along the front property line of your lot. Property owners are responsible for maintaining a clear pathway to and around the water meter.

Please take the time to check the area around the water meter box and confirm that it is accessible. Make sure bushes and other plants don't hide the meter, and do not park cars or place any other objects on top of the meter box.

Keeping the meter box accessible helps to turn off your water quickly in the event of an emergency. It also allows us to quickly and efficiently read the meter which helps keep utility costs and rates low. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service at **253-630-9900**.



Be sure that your meter is cleared of all trees, shrubs, and debris.



A cleared meter is a happy meter!

Using Water Wisely Matters

When we work together to save water, it makes a big difference. Thanks to conservation efforts, our region uses the same amount of water today that it did in the late 1950s.

Utility Rate Reduction Program

In 2022, 59 low-income permanently disabled, and 283 low-income senior citizens took advantage of the 30% discount offered on our water and sewer base rates through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$34,244.61. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 51 cents for all water customers and 54 cents for all sewer customers. The discount does not apply to the King County Sewer Treatment charges. To request an application for the District's Utility Rate Reduction Program, visit www.sooscreek.com, or call **253-630-9900**.

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Commissioners

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Alan Eades
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General Manager

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Regular Board of Commissioners Meetings are open to the public and are held the first, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 4:30 p.m.

