



**Forks Municipal Water  
City of Forks  
2025  
Report to Consumers on Water Quality  
PWS ID #26000E**

Dear Customer:

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the year 2025. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires utilities to issue an annual consumer confidence report in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Forks Municipal Water Department is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of water. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

**The bottom line: Does Forks city water meet all federal and state regulations for drinking water? Absolutely.**

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular City Council meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The public is welcome to attend these meetings.

Find out more about Forks Municipal Water Department at [www.forkswashington.com](http://www.forkswashington.com).

### Overview

In 2025, Forks Municipal Water Department distributed just over 158.5-million gallons of water to the Forks area.

**Water conservation:** It is important to conserve water when possible. In 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2025 Forks Municipal Water Department implemented voluntary water restrictions, but in 2015 and 2016 water restrictions were mandatory.

**Call Before You Dig:** Washington State law makes it illegal to dig anywhere in the state without first calling 811 (RCW 19.122). It is very important to call 811 before you dig. We have had water mains broken by construction equipment in the past when people forgot, or chose not, to call 811 to have utility lines located. Those water-main breaks resulted in a considerable amount of water storage loss.

**Cross-connections:** A cross-connection is an actual or potential link between the potable water supply and a source of contamination (sewage, chemicals, gas, or any non-potable water). The most common cross-connections around the house are caused by garden hoses. If a water main is broken, it can result in a phenomenon known as backsiphonage. Backsiphonage occurs when a partial vacuum is created in a piping system and causes flow in the opposite direction of normal flow. If a property owner has a hose hooked up to a potable water source and the opposite open end is submerged in a contaminant (chemicals, pond, pool, hot tub, fertilizer or soap sprayer, etc.) for example, that contaminant could be siphoned back into the water system if a water main is broken. There have been many cases of the public becoming ill due to cross-connections. Commercial properties often have backflow preventers installed and regularly inspected. If you are concerned about a possible cross-connection, please contact the City.

**Water leak repair:** We understand that emergencies occur, but it is always best to have the City turn off water at the meter for leak repairs. Turning off water incorrectly may cause damage to the meter, valve, or pipes. Property owners or residents can protect themselves from any liability or costly repairs associated with such damage by having the City turn off the water for them. The Water Department can be reached by calling 360-374-5412 and pressing 1 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F). For after-hours emergencies call 360-374-5412 and press 8.

**Water main installation and repair:** Water mains are replaced or added throughout the year due to age and City growth. Please use caution around construction zones. One of our goals is always to limit the impact of such work on home and business owners as much as possible, but unforeseen circumstances do occur. Please feel free to contact the Water Department with any concerns. We will do our best to address them in a timely manner.

**2025 projects:** Replacement of the failing water main running along E Street began. The water main was upgraded to 8 inches, and meters and hydrants were replaced. The new main will provide better flow and more pressure. In addition, we have been working to reduce water loss for several years. Many water meters have been replaced for more accurate reporting of water use, and we will continue to replace old and failing meters as needed. In 2025 the City hired an outside contractor to identify leaks throughout the City. The final report was completed, and the identified water leaks were repaired. We would like to thank community members for calling the City when they see a leak. Every leak reported helps to reduce water loss and conserve water.

Our water currently comes from five wells—well 1 AHM638 WW (S01), well 2 AHM642 WW (S02), well 3 AHM639 WW (S03), well 4 AHM640 WW (S04), well 5 AHM641 WW (S05), well 6 BJE 749 (S06); wells 1, 2, and 3 make up wellfield S06 while wells 4, 5, and 6 make up wellfield S07—both of which are located between the Forks water compound at 300 Lupine Ave. and the former radio station at 190 Cedar Ave. The susceptibility rating for our wells has been designated “moderate” by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Our water passes all state health standards for potable water as it is pumped from the ground. To ensure that it stays clean and safe, we add a very small amount of chlorine to kill any bacteria that may have entered the system accidentally, such as when a water main breaks or a backflow incident occurs. Chlorinated systems are required to maintain just a trace of chlorine throughout the distribution system. We try to maintain a minimum of .2 parts per million (ppm), which is comparable to one inch in 80 miles or one minute in ten years. In addition, we take at least six routine water samples per month and have them tested by an accredited lab for contamination by microbes such as *E. coli* and other coliforms. Additional testing includes annual tests for nitrate contamination. Once every three years we test for over 60 volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), including styrene, butylbenzene, and trihalomethanes such as chloroform, as well as 45 synthetic organic chemicals including naphthalene, pyrene, and PCBs. We further have our water tested for a minimum of 24 inorganic chemicals such as nickel, iron, and sodium once every nine years.

In 2025 Forks Municipal Water Department tested the drinking water for the following at two separate and isolated locations: nitrates, PFAS, and disinfection by-products. All tests performed passed with good results.

The Washington State Department of Health reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic chemicals (IOCs), volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) because not all sources are at risk of contamination. The last samples taken for IOCs were in 2020, VOCs in 2021, herbicides (SOCs) in 2022, and pesticides (SOCs) in 2020. The state also granted a waiver for soil fumigants, dioxin, endothall, glyphosate, diquat, and insecticides.

**An important question about water: Is water that meets federal drinking water standards absolutely safe?**

Safety is relative, not absolute. For example, an aspirin or two may help a headache, but taking an entire bottle at once could result in death. So, is aspirin safe? When setting drinking water standards, federal regulatory agencies use the concept of **reasonable risk**, not no risk. Completely risk-free water would cost too much. Therefore, the answer to the original question must be no, drinking water is not *absolutely* safe. However, the likelihood of becoming sick from drinking water that meets federal standards is typically as low as one chance in a million.

One difficulty the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has when trying to determine reasonable risk relates to the concept known as **susceptible population**. Not all people who drink water are the same in terms of health. Some people are more susceptible to illnesses than others. For example, only babies three months old and younger are affected by nitrates in drinking water, so are considered a susceptible population for those contaminants. They are more likely to become ill from high nitrate levels in their drinking water. The standard for nitrates, therefore, was selected to protect these infants. It is not always easy to identify populations susceptible to various contaminants. The elderly, those undergoing cancer treatment, babies, and those who are HIV positive, for example, are often considered susceptible populations. Federal regulatory agencies must balance the risks to all these groups with the cost of water treatment to arrive at standards that protect as many people as possible and can be afforded. This policy is commonly described as “the greatest good for the greatest number”.

**REQUEST**

Please do not plant trees or large shrubs over water mains or near water meters. We have had numerous water-main breaks caused by tree roots. These repairs are costly and time consuming and often result in damage to lawns and other landscaping.

**Distribution Water Quality**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Ranges of levels detected in 2025	Unit measurement	MCLG	MCL	Typical source
Total coliform bacteria	No	There were no coliforms present in the 74 samples taken in 2025	Present/absent	0	Zero	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i>	No	There was no <i>E. coli</i> detected in the 74 samples taken in 2025	Present/absent	0	Zero	Human and animal fecal waste
Total trihalomethanes (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, bromoform)	No	2.67	µg/L	NA	Total sum of 80	Typical by-products of chlorine disinfection of drinking water
Chlorine residual	No	.13-.54	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes

**Source Water Quality**

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Your water	Unit measurement	MCLG	MCL	Typical source
Nitrate – S06	No	1.00	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate – S07	No	0.896	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

The tables above show results of water quality testing for 2025.

**Key to terms used in the table and throughout this document**

**Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG):** 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.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**ppm:** parts per million

**µg/L:** micrograms per liter

### **Additional required health information**

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data has been compiled for all community public water systems in Washington. SWAP data for our public water system can be found online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWaterProtection/Assessment.aspx>. If you don't have Internet access, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants that may be contained in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 filters out naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and may pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or the result of urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural applications, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also be released by gas stations, or come from urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be contained in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must ensure the same protections for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in their drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, as well as some elderly people and infants, can be at particular risk from infections. These people should seek advice about their drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate ways of reducing the risk of infection by a *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). This report was prepared by Forks Municipal Water Department. For more information, call Forks Municipal Water Department at (360) 374-5412. Learn more about the Forks municipal water system at [www.forkswashington.com](http://www.forkswashington.com).

### **Office of Drinking Water Lead Statement**

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The longer water sits in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead, flush water through any water tap that has not been used for six hours or more until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. The flushed water can be used to water plants, wash dishes, and general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Your water bill includes a 6% city utility tax.

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**