



Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

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Drinking Water - Spring 2025

Island County, Washington sent this bulletin at 04/08/2025 10:00 AM PDT

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Drinking Water Spring 2025

Individual actions can help protect our drinking water. If this time of year means spring cleaning and/or yard maintenance for you, please keep in mind:

- Household chemicals like cleaners, paint, fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, motor oil, etc. should not be stored within 100 feet of a well.
- Disposal of household chemicals is FREE at all [Island County Solid Waste Facilities](#).
- [Native plants](#) tend to need less water and fertilizer to thrive.

Seawater Intrusion

The majority of the people in Island County get their drinking water from groundwater. Island County's fresh groundwater is surrounded by the salty Puget Sound and there is a delicate balance between fresh water and salt water. Seasonal changes in the amount of water stored in the ground, quantity of water pumped out of the ground and sea level rise can shift the balance. If seawater intrudes into fresh groundwater, the supply of drinkable water may decrease. Regular monitoring for seawater intrusion is [necessary](#) to help protect drinking water resources.



Graphic from [The National Environmental Education Foundation \(NEEF\)](#)

To learn more about seawater intrusion, check out the [Island County Hydrogeology Website](#).

To see a map of seawater intrusion risk county-wide, check out the new [Island County Hydrogeology Map](#).

To delve deeper into seawater intrusion in Island County, check out the [Seawater Intrusion Topic Paper](#).

Reminder for Group A and Group B Public Water Systems:

Sampling for chloride and conductivity is required in April and August for water sources in areas classified as medium, high, or very high risk of seawater intrusion. Check the seawater intrusion risk classification on the [Island County Hydrogeology Dashboard](#) and the [Island County Hydrogeology Map](#).

Boil Water Notices



Island County recently sent out a community alert notifying the public of a boil water advisory issued by a local public water system (sign up for Island County alerts [here](#)). Although we rarely hear about boil water advisories or notices, thousands are issued every year across the country. The notice to boil water is issued by a public water system as a routine safety precaution when coliform bacteria are found or a situation has occurred that has the potential to contaminate the water system, such as a loss in pressure due to maintenance or a break in a water line. Coliform bacteria are considered indicator organisms as their presence indicates that disease-causing organisms may be in the water system.

Testing the water quality may take one to several days and when test results show that the water is not contaminated, the boil water advisory is lifted. It is important to remember that a boil water advisory is issued by a public water system only for those impacted. **The boil water advisory does not apply to homes and businesses receiving water from a different water system or an individual well.**

To find your water system, check out the new [Island County Hydrogeology Map](#).

Reminder for Group A and Group B Public Water Systems:

The Washington State Department of Health has resources available -

[Low-Pressure Events](#)

[Coliform Issues](#)

Thank you for your interest in Island County Drinking Water.

For more information, contact us at drinkingwater@islandcountywa.gov.

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