



NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT ANNUAL WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2020

To Our Customers: This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Where does my water come from?

The North Tahoe Public Utility District services nearly 3,971 connections. These connections include single-family dwellings and business establishments, as well as separate irrigation and fire systems. The District operates three separate and independent water systems: Dollar Cove, Carnelian Bay, and the Tahoe Main system, comprised of Tahoe Vista, Kings Beach, and Brockway to the Nevada State Line. Dollar Cove is currently being supplied through the Tahoe City Public Utility District's Tahoe City system, by agreement of a joint well drilling project of the two Districts that is comprised of five separate wells (groundwater sources). Carnelian Bay draws its water from a single well (groundwater source). The Tahoe Main water system draws water from Lake Tahoe (surface water source) through an intake at the end of National Avenue in Tahoe Vista, as well as a single well (groundwater source) located in the North Tahoe Regional Park at the top of Donner Road. These combined sources supplied just under 381 million gallons of water to our customers in 2020.

How can I keep our drinking water safe and clean?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels in the environment it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity, and even radioactive material, in some cases. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and **Volatile Organic chemicals**, that are byproducts of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (Department), prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to their regulations. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

The drinking water that the District treats and provides for its customers comes from wells as well as the open water of Lake Tahoe. Many people don't see the link between the water you drink and the items that are put into the sewer system, but when people dispose of their waste incorrectly, it threatens the safety of our drinking water as well.

In the Tahoe basin, our storm drain system does not put runoff into the sewer system like so many other communities in this country. Most of the storm drains drain directly into the Lake! In addition to protecting our sewers, it is also extremely important that under no circumstances may substances be put directly into the storm drain.

Most liquid and automotive waste (oil, old gasoline) can be disposed of during one of the hazardous waste disposal days provided by Placer County and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal at the Eastern Regional Landfill on Cabin Creek Road off Highway 89.

Water Quality Data

These system tables list all the drinking water contaminants that were tested for during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these 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 January 1—December 31, 2020. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. See the last page for Terms and Abbreviations used in the report. This full report is available on our website at ntpud.org/ccr

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

Source water assessment and its availability

Our most recent watershed sanitary survey (Lake Tahoe) update was done in 2018.

Although the North Tahoe Basin sewage flows to Truckee and is treated, domestic sewage and wastewater disposal and collection are potentially contaminating activities (PCA) of key concern. Summer recreation on the lake is another PCA of key concern. The District does not have direct regulatory control or enforcement over the Lake Tahoe watershed; we rely on the regulatory powers of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

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 North Tahoe Public Utility District 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 running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Capture and use this water for household or garden plants. 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water on most cases would be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can cause cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is four (4) picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council on Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236).

Water Conservation – A California Way of Life

In April 2017 the State of California placed permanent restrictions on wasteful water practices. The following wasteful water practices are now permanently prohibited:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle
- Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff
- Watering within 48 hours after measurable precipitation
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians

20% by 2020

The 20% by 2020 state mandate is that all water purveyors reduce their per capita water use by 20% from the average usage of our customers over 10 years in the early 2000's. For most recent info go to : <http://ntpud.org/water-regulations>

District Water Conservation Regulations

- As of May 13, 2020 the District's Stage 2 water conservation measures will remain in effect. Visit <http://ntpud.org/water-regulations>

CURRENT Mandatory Reduction Measures (Stage 2)

- Outdoor irrigation schedule
 - EVEN addresses: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - ODD addresses: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
 - NO watering on Saturday
- Water may not be applied to hard surfaces (i.e. asphalt driveways), except for pavement resurfacing/sealing or public health/safety reasons
- Visitor accommodations may only wash linens upon request. A placard or notice shall be placed in each guest room.
- All public entities, hotels, motels, restaurants, and other visitor-serving facilities shall prominently display informational materials, placards, or decals provided by the District

CONTINUED Reduction Measures (Stage 1)

- Leaks must be repaired when found or within 10 days of District notification of leak. Note: The District will notify property owners following water meter reads if there is an unusually high reading.
- Irrigation, runoff, or flooding onto hard surfaces or any non-irrigated areas is prohibited
- Automatic shut off valves or nozzles are required on all hoses. Note: Free hose nozzles available at the District office.
- Irrigation must be winterized by Nov. 1 of every year
- Landscaping may not be irrigated:
 - Between the hours of 9am – 6pm
 - During, or within 48 hours after, measurable precipitation
 - When the air temperature is less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit

The District always operates at a Stage 1 level, which includes basic good practices and helps prevent waste. The Stage 2 regulations include conservation measures and use requirements to help the District meet the 20 percent reduction goal. [View the full list of regulations for each stage.](#) [Learn more about water conservation methods.](#)

For More Information

To obtain specific water quality or watershed data contact Michael Warren, Lead Water Quality Control Technician at (530) 546-4212 ext. 5452, or mwarren@ntpud.org. Visit www.ntpud.org to find more information.

Our Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the North Tahoe Event Center. We encourage participation in these meetings. For meeting times and agendas please visit our website <http://ntpud.org> or call the District office at (530) 546-4212.

