Table of Common Drinking Water Quality Parameters
City of Bellingham

Notable water quality values in water sampled from the distribution system:	pH	Free Chlorine (mg/L)	Hardness (mg/L $CaCO_3$)	Alkalinity (mg/L CaCO3)	Iron (mg/L)	% sites with Total Coliform Bacteria	Magnesium (mg/L)	Calcium (mg/L)
Date for averages	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2011-2020	2000
System Average:	8.44	0.4	21.4	26.9	0.01	0.09%	0.002	7.9
Comments:	Bellingham's source water is so pure, it can be corrosive. We adjust the pH up with soda ash to reduce this corrosiveness.	We are required to leave a detectable residual of free chlorine throughout our distribution system to make sure our water is free of pathogens.	Dishwasher manufacturers refer to this as "grains" of hardness. Our water has slightly more than 1 grain, therefore, use as little soap as possible.	The ability of the water body to neutralize acids and bases and thus maintain a fairly stable pH level	Iron can leach from cast iron pipes in the water distribution system.	We are allowed a 5% occurrence of these non-pathogenic bacteria. Even so, it is unusual for us to detect any of these bacteria.	Magnesium is an essential nutrient and is a mineral that is found naturally in water.	Calcium is an essential nutrient and is a mineral that is found naturally in water

mg/L = milligrams per liter or parts per million