

Water Testing

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide similar protection for public health. The City conducts tests on both regulated and unregulated contaminants that may be present in the source water, which include microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. Many of the substances the City is required to test are not detected in the water system. The information about those substances that have been detected in your drinking water and how the test levels compare to regulatory standards are listed in the table as part of this pamphlet. If a contaminant is not listed in this report, it is because it was not detected in drinking water.

Drinking Water Treatment

The Water Treatment Plant, built in 1973 and upgraded in 1994 and 2008, represents one of the most reliable water processes in the country. The plant provides water treatment year-round under a wide variety of seasonal conditions in the creek.

Health Information about Drinking Water

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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

Test Results

Monitoring for Contaminants in Drinking Water for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2009

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Major Sources	Violation?
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	ppb	4000	4000	1.07 avg	.73 – 1.37	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	No
Disinfection By-products							
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	n/a	31.3 avg	16.0 – 44.0	By-products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No
HAA5s (Total Haloacetic Acid)	ppb	60	n/a	19.4 avg	10.0 – 36.0	By-products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No
Turbidity *	NTU	TT = 1 NTU	0	.16	n/a	Soil runoff	No
		TT = percentage of samples < 0.3 NTU		100%	n/a		No

Contaminant	Units	Goal	AL	90th Percentile	Homes Exceeding AL	Major Sources	Violation
Copper	ppb	1300	1300	340	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	No
Lead†	ppb	0	15	57	9	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	No**

†2008 Results, re-testing plan in place for 2010

*Turbidity has no health effects; however, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

** The action level for lead was exceeded in 2008, however an action level is not considered a limit; therefore, the elevated lead concentration reported above is not considered a violation.

Abbreviations and Definitions:

AL - Action Level. AL is the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The MCLG is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level. The MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
ppb - Parts Per Billion. One part per billion is comparable to one penny in \$10,000,000.
pCi/L - Picocuries Per Liter. The measure of radioactivity in water.
ND - Non-Detects. Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present at a concentration below the detection limit of the test method used.
ppt - Parts Per Trillion. One part per trillion is comparable to one penny in \$10,000,000,000.
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
TT - Treatment Technique. TT is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 from their health care providers about their drinking water.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. The City continually monitors for these organisms and reports the results to the EPA for evaluation. EPA/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.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the household plumbing. The City of Dallas is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. When water has been stagnant (not running) you can minimize potential exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking purposes. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The City continues to take measures to reduce the likelihood that lead will enter the drinking water from household plumbing. One such measure is the introduction of orthophosphate to the water system that began in July of 2009. Orthophosphate comes from the addition of very small quantities of phosphoric acid to the water. Phosphoric acid is safe, commonly used in the processing of many foods and beverages and approved for use in food and drinking water by the USEPA, Food and Drug Administration, and the National Sanitation Foundation. The orthophosphate prevents lead from entering the water by forming a thin protective coating on the plumbing.

Notes:

- Radioactive contaminants are analyzed every nine years. Dallas water supply was tested for Gross Alpha Radiation on November 19, 2002. The results were ND at 1 (pCi/L) with a MCL of 16 (pCi/L).
- Inorganics are analyzed once every nine years. The above results encompass testing in 2001.
- Synthetic organics are analyzed once per three-year compliance period. The above results in this category encompass testing in 2007 through 2009.
- Lead and copper contaminants are analyzed every three years. These results are from water drawn from homes in 2008 that have lead and copper within their plumbing.

Common Water Source Issues

The 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 dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes 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.



Your 2009 Drinking Water Report

The City of Dallas is proud to share with you information concerning the quality of your drinking water system. Providing residents and businesses in the Dallas water service area with safe, dependable, high-quality water at a reasonable cost is a top priority. The City of Dallas delivers water to more than 16,000 people every day and we think it is important for our customers to understand where their water comes from, how safe it is, and what actions we take to ensure its continuing high quality. The City welcomes your questions and comments about this report and other matters concerning your water. You may contact the Department of Public Works by calling City Hall at 503.831.3562.

Our Water Sources

The City uses surface water from Rickreall Creek and the Rickreall Watershed. A Source Water Assessment of the City's watershed area was conducted in 2003 in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. A copy of the Source Water Assessment Report is available at the Dallas Public Library or from the Director of Public Works at City Hall. The citizens of Dallas are fortunate to have a source of such high quality water.



2009 Annual Water Quality Report

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