



ANNUAL
WATER REPORT
Reporting Year 2011

QUALITY

PRESENTED BY
FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY
DISTRICT NO. 25

PWS ID#: 0790130

Utility Introduction

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our system and determined that our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements. The analysis was made by using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached tables. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (281) 277-0129, opcion 2.

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems:

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water

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 from 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or may 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the TCEQ has a Web site (www.tceq.com) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Texas, including valuable information about our watershed.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Our drinking water is obtained from groundwater sources and comes from the Chicot aquifer. The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Field Operations at (281) 277-0129, option 7. The report will describe the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessment and protection efforts at our system, please contact us. It is important to protect your drinking water by protecting your water source.

**TIL TAUGHT BY PAIN, MEN REALLY
KNOW NOT WHAT GOOD WATER
IS WORTH.** -From *Don Juan*

Secondary Constituents

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our system's business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Public Participation

The Board of Directors of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 meet the second Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the James Cupp Meeting Center, adjacent to the District's office, located at 18230 Old Richmond Road, Sugar Land, TX 77498. Please call (281) 277-0129, ext. 5300, to confirm the meeting date and location of future public meetings.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call District Operations at (281) 277-0129, option 7

Health Information for 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. This water supply 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 flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-Connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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Who uses the most water?

On a global average, most freshwater withdrawals—69 percent—are used for agriculture, while industry accounts for 23 percent and municipal use (drinking water, bathing and cleaning, and watering plants and grass) just 8 percent.

How much water does a person use every day?

The average person in the U.S. uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day. During medieval times a person used only 5 gallons per day.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

Where does a water molecule spend most of its time on Earth?

In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Sampling Results

The table below contains all of the chemical constituents detected in your drinking water. The table includes the results of the most recent sampling performed in accordance with the applicable regulations. The EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Questions concerning this report may be directed to District Operations at (281) 277-0129, option 7.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	HIGHEST DETECTED LEVEL	RANGE LOW-HIGH	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Radioactive Contaminants							
Combined Radium 226 and 228 (pCi/L)	2009-2010	0.88	0–0.88	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Emitters (pCi/L)	2009-2010	5.2	0–5.2	50 ¹	0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	2011	2.9	2.3–2.9	10	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2011	0.313	0.202–0.313	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2010-2011	0.28	0.24–0.28	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2011	0.16	0.10–0.16	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2011	5.2	3.5–5.2	50	50	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Organic Contaminants							
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2009	1.2	0–1.2	6	0	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

Lead and Copper

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES		MCLG	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
			AL				
Copper (ppm)	2009	0.16	0/0	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	2009	1.9	0/0	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE DETECTED LEVEL	RANGE LOW-HIGH	MRDL	MRDLG	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)	2011	1.42	1.01–1.92	4	<4	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes

¹The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

mrem/yr (millirems per year): a measure of radiation dosage.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): measure of turbidity.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppq (parts per quadrillion): One part substance per quadrillion parts water (or picograms per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.