

WQR 2009

DALLAS DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

City of Dallas

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Why you've received this report

This report is produced to provide information about the Dallas water system including source water, the levels of detected contaminants and compliance with drinking water rules. This report is also produced in order to answer your water quality questions. If you need more information, please call our water quality information line at 311 Dallas' Information Line.

Regular monthly tests are conducted on Dallas water to ensure that it is clean and meets all water quality requirements.

Special notice for the elderly, infants, cancer patients, people with HIV/AIDS and other immune 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.

Where your water comes from

Dallas uses surface water from six sources: the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and lakes Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni.

All drinking water may contain contaminants.

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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1/800/426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which

provides the same protection for public health, prescribes regulations which establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a tiny intestinal parasite found naturally in the environment. It is spread by human and animal waste. If ingested, *cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection (symptoms include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps). Some of the ways *cryptosporidium* can be spread include drinking contaminated water, eating contaminated food that is raw or undercooked, exposure to the feces of animals or infected individuals (i.e. changing diapers without washing hands afterward), or exposure to contaminated surfaces. Not everyone exposed to the organism becomes ill.

During 2009, Dallas continued monthly testing for *cryptosporidium* in both untreated and treated water. Dallas Water Utilities began monitoring for *cryptosporidium* in 1993. It has been found only in the untreated water supply. *Cryptosporidium* has not been found in Dallas treated drinking water.

To protect your drinking water, Dallas works to protect the watershed from contamination and optimizes treatment processes. Although Dallas' water treatment process removes *cryptosporidium*, immunocompromised persons should consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

To request more information on cryptosporidium, please call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1/800/426-4791).

Lead and Copper

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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

TCEQ completed an assessment of Dallas' source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for Dallas' water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts call Dallas' 311 Information Line.

In 2004, the City of Dallas participated in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) in order to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. This data may be found on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html>, or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels 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, and wildlife;
- inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- pesticides and herbicides, which might have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

- organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and

- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color or odor problems. These type of problems are not necessarily cause for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact Dallas at (214) 670-0917.

Your participation is welcome.

Dallas Water Utilities is a not-for-profit department of the City of Dallas and is governed by the Dallas City Council. The City Council meets weekly on Wednesdays. For information about meetings and how to register as a speaker, contact the City Secretary's office at 214/670-3738.

Following are other helpful telephone #:

- Questions or concerns about water quality ... Dallas' 311 Information Line
- Questions about your bill ... 214/651-1441
- For brochures on water conservation ... 214/670-3155.

Water Quality Data Report 2009

This is a summary of water quality data for Dallas Water Utilities. The list includes parameters which DWU currently tests for, in accordance with Federal and State Water Quality Regulations. The frequency of testing varies depending on the parameters and are in compliance with established standards. Dallas Water Utilities is a "Superior" rated Water System by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. All three water treatment plants are optimized and certified by meeting the Texas Optimization Program and Partnership for Safe Drinking Water criteria. Dallas water exceeds Federal and State water quality parameters.

CONTAMINANT	YEAR OF RANGE	LEVEL					MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminants	
		Average	Minimum	Maximum	MCL	MCLG				
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS										
Barium	2009	0.021	0.014	0.033	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits		
Fluoride	2009	0.7	0.34	0.87	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		
Nitrate (as N)	2009	0.21	<0.02	0.79	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits		
Bromate	2009	<5.0	<5.0	5.7	10	0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Gross beta emitters	2005	5.4	4.4	6.4	50	0	pCi/L****	Decay of natural and man-made deposits		
ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS										
Atrazine	2009	0.34	0.23	0.48	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops		
Simazine	2009	0.15	0.10	0.23	4	4	ppb	Herbicide runoff / Escorrentia de herbicidas.		
Lindane	2009	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.2	0.2	ppb	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens		
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS										
Total Haloacetic Acid***	2009	19.1	12.7	33.6	60	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Total Trihalomethanes	2009	24.2	6.3	72.6	80	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	Source Water	Treated Water Alkalinity								
Total Organic Carbon	2009	4.2	3.6	5.1	< 60 mg/L as CaCO3		ppm	Naturally present in the environment		
DISINFECTANT		MRDL					MRDLG			
Total Chlorine Residual	2009	3.88	3.56	4.45	4*	4*	ppm	In distribution system - Water additive used to control microbes		
LEAD AND COPPER		90 th Percentile **	# of sites exceeding action level		Action Level		Unit of measure	Source of Contaminant		
Lead	2009	0.003	0		0.015		ppm			
Copper	2009	0.49	0		1.3		ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives		
		Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits		Turbidity Limits		Unit of Measure			
TURBIDITY	2009	0.10	100%		0.3		NTU	Soil Runoff		
		Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples								
TOTAL COLIFORM	2009	0.60%		5% or more of monthly samples		Found/Not Found		Naturally present in the environment		

* as annual average

*** Haloacetic Acids - five species

** 90 percentile value in the distribution system

**** 50 pCi/L - 4 mrem/yr

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

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. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

CONTAMINANT	YEAR OF RANGE	LEVEL					MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminants
		Average	Minimum	Maximum	MCL	MCLG			
Chloroform	2009	16.7	2.4	66.8	-	-	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
Bromodichloromethane	2009	3.7	1.5	6.7	-	-	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
Bromoform	2009	0.6	<1.0	7.4	-	-	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
Dibromochloromethane	2009	3.2	<1.0	19.0	-	-	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	

Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCL/G): 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.

mrem/year: Millirem per year (measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

ND: Not detected.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measure of turbidity in water.

pCi/L: Pico-curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

POE: Point of entry. Sample measured at the point where water enters the distribution system.

ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L).

ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

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

Turbidity: A measure of the clarity of drinking water. The lower the turbidity, the better.

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