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 800.426.4791 or at www.epa.gov/safwater.

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 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 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.

Automatic Meter Reading System (AMR)

Dallas is Upgrading to AMR.

Automated Meter Reading, or AMR, is the technology of automatically collecting data from the water meter and transferring it directly to City Hall for billing, troubleshooting, and analyzing. This will eliminate the cost of manually reading each meter every month and will help us provide a higher level of customer service and more accurate billing. This system also has the capability of providing timely leak detection within individual homes and businesses.

Over time, meters tend to register less water than is actually being used. Since new meters work more efficiently, some customers may see a slight increase in monthly water usage on their water bill. Accurate meter reads allow for better long-term budget forecasting and can help keep overall rates lower.

The existing meters in the water system range from 10-30 years of age and must be periodically replaced to ensure proper operation and accuracy. The City of Dallas still needs to replace meters over time, and implementing AMR was an opportunity not only to accomplish that, but to also take advantage of existing technology to improve our operational efficiency.

For more information about AMR, please visit the City website at www.dallasor.gov/amr or call the Public Works Department at 503.831.3562.

Frequently Asked Questions About Water Quality

Who can I call about water quality or pressure concerns?
For questions on issues such as water pressure, water leaks and/or taste or odor, call our Public Works Department at City Hall 503.831.3562.

How can I get my water tested?
Private laboratories can test your tap water for a fee. Not all labs are accredited to test for all contaminants. For information about accredited labs, call the Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, at 503.229.5505.

Is Dallas's water soft or hard?
Dallas's water is very soft.

What is the pH of Dallas's water?
In the distribution system, pH typically ranges from 7.2 to 8.2.

Is my water treated by fluoride?
Yes. Adding fluoride to drinking water is an important element in promotion of dental health for all of our citizens. In response to proposed federal guidelines the City has reduced its target fluoride concentration to .7 ppm.

Who can I talk to about my water?
For specific questions about your water, please call our Director of Environmental Services at 503.831.3555. If you have billing questions, call our Finance Department at 503.831.3508. Opportunities for public comment are provided at City Council meetings held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court Street on the second floor.

2016 Annual Water Quality Report

Drinking water quality in Dallas exceeded all mandated Federal and State standards in 2016 There were no violations of contaminant levels.

Your 2016 Drinking Water Report

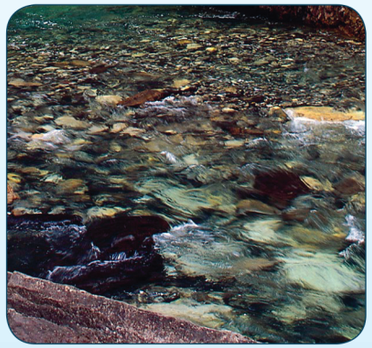
The City of Dallas is proud to share with you information concerning the quality of your drinking water system. Providing residents and businesses in the Dallas water service area with safe, dependable, high-quality water at a reasonable cost is a top priority. The City of Dallas delivers water to more 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.

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.



Our Water Source

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 Engineering and Environmental Services at City Hall. The citizens of Dallas are fortunate to have a very high quality source of 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.

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.

Test Results

Results of Monitoring for Contaminants in Drinking Water for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016.

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Range	Major Sources	Violation?
Inorganic Chemicals							
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	.74 avg	.39 - 1.14	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	32.2 avg	22.9 - 47.3	By-products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No
HAA5s (Total Haloacetic Acid)	ppb	60	n/a	16.3 avg	ND - 28.1	By-products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No
Turbidity *	NTU	TT = 1 NTU	0	.106	.052 - .307	Soil runoff	No
		TT = percentage of samples < 0.3 NTU in 95%		99.7% (1 sample at .307)	n/a		No

Contaminant	Units	Goal	AL	90th Percentile	Homes Exceeding AL	Major Sources	Violation?
Copper (2015)	ppb	1300	1300	134 (August)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	No
Lead (2015)	ppb	0	15	7 (August)	2	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	No

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

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.

ppm – Parts per Million. One part per million is compared to one penny in $10,000.00.

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.

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.

Notes:

- Radioactive contaminants are analyzed every nine years. Dallas water supply was tested for Gross Alpha Radiation on January 21, 2011.
- Inorganics are analyzed once every nine years. The above results encompass testing in February 23, 2014.
- Synthetic organics are analyzed once per three-year compliance period.
- Lead and copper contaminants are analyzed every 3 years. These results are from water drawn from homes that have lead and copper within their plumbing. (Last tested in 2015)