Dallas 2001

Drinking Water Quality Report

Dallas water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.

Why you've received this report

This report is produced to provide information about the sources of Dallas water, the content of Dallas water and answers to your water quality questions. If you need more information, please call our water quality information line at 214/670-0900.

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

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 about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1/800/426-4791).

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Cryptosporidium

During 2001, 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, immuno-compromised persons should consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

Cryptosporidium is a tiny intestinal parasite found naturally in the environment. It is spread by human and animal waste. If ingested, it can cause flu-like symptoms. 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 infected individuals or animals (such as changing diapers without washing hands afterward), or exposure to contaminated surfaces. Not everyone exposed to the organism becomes ill.

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

Where your water comes from

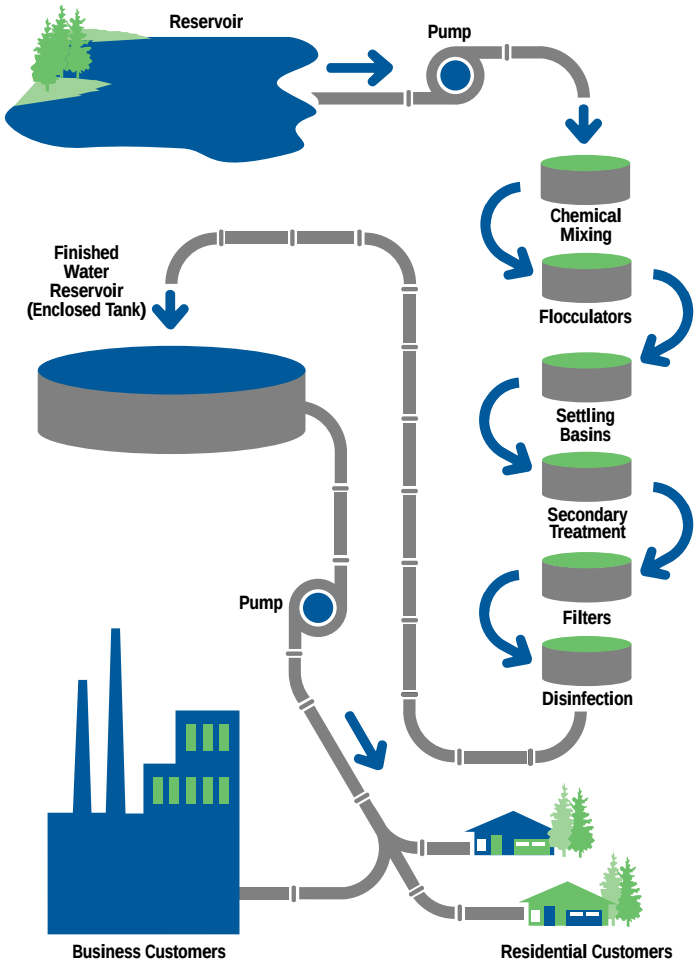
Dallas uses surface water from six sources: the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and Lakes Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. In addition, Dallas has water rights in Lakes Fork and Palestine to meet future needs. To address issues such as future water use, the city of Dallas regularly reviews its Long Range Water Supply Plan.

DWU has an active Watershed Management Program that performed more than 8,000 tests on the water quality in the rivers, streams and reservoirs in 2001. In addition, the city of Dallas' storm water quality and industrial pretreatment programs help prevent pollution.

As water travels over the surface of the land, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can be polluted by animals or human activity. The presence of any of these pollutants in the untreated water does not necessarily pose a health risk in your drinking water. The city of Dallas will continue to commit the resources needed to ensure proper treatment and delivery of high-quality drinking water to its customers.

Treating your drinking water

Dallas water is purified through chemical treatment, settling, filtration and disinfection. Water treatment chemicals including lime, ferric sulfate, chloramines (chlorine and ammonia), powdered activated carbon, polymers, ozone, carbon dioxide and fluoride are added to water to remove impurities, kill harmful bacteria, eliminate tastes and odors and help prevent tooth decay.



Water quality monitoring results

As the charts show, the levels of contaminants in Dallas water meet or are better than the amounts allowed by law. The charts list contaminants detected in Dallas drinking water in 2001 and the amounts allowed by the state and federal governments (maximum contaminant level). Definitions of terms also are listed.

Dallas regularly tests drinking water for more than 180 contaminants. About 50,000 tests each month are conducted on Dallas water to ensure that it is clean and meets all water quality requirements. To request a complete list of the contaminants tested for and the results, please write and send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to Dallas Water Utilities, 1500 Marilla, Room 5AS, Dallas, TX 75201.

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 numbers:

- Questions or concerns about water quality - 214/670-0900;
- Questions about your bill - 214/651-1441;
- For brochures on water conservation - 214/670-3155.

Regulated Characteristics

Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Amount Detected Average	Amount Detected Range	Possible Source
Detected Inorganic Contaminants					
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.030	0.018 - 0.031	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.67	0.60 - 0.70	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	0	AL = 15	ND	ND - 11	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.014	ND - 0.043	Same as lead
Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	0.60	0.12 - 0.82	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite as Nitrogen (ppm)	1	1	0.01	ND - 0.03	Same as nitrate
Detected Organic Contaminants					
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.44	0.20 - 0.71	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	0.34	0.15 - 0.42	Herbicide runoff
Detected Microbial Contaminants					
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	5% of monthly samples	0.34%	0% - 0.87%	Naturally present in the environment
Detected Radioactive Contaminants					
Beta Emitters (pCi/L)†	0	60	0.17	ND - 0.50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Disinfection By-Products					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	0	100*	43.1	2.6 - 87.5	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Treatment Requirements					
Turbidity - plants effluents, NTU	N/A	TT AL = 0.5	0.08	0.04 - 0.20	Soil runoff

† 50 pCi/L = 4 mrem/year
** MCL is based on average of four quarterly samples in the distribution system.*

Unregulated Characteristics*

Contaminant	Amount Detected Average	Amount Detected Range	Possible Source
Detected Inorganic Contaminants			
Sodium (ppm)	28	9 - 39	Natural contaminant
Total Hardness (ppm)	131	106 - 179	Natural contaminants
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	77	48 - 106	Natural contaminant
Detected Volatile Organic Contaminants			
Chloromethane (ppb)	0.6	ND - 3.4	Chlorine reaction with untreated water
Acetone (ppb)	5.4	ND - 18.0	Ozone reaction with untreated water
Cyanogen Chloride (ppb)	0.4	ND - 2.1	Ozone reaction with untreated water
Detected Disinfection By-Products (DBPs)			
Total Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) Annual Running Average (ppb) in Distribution System	16.3	6.0 - 34.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromate (ppb)	2.52	ND - 5.6	Ozonation by-product

** Unregulated characteristics do not have MCL or MCLG.*

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 (MCLG) - 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 - Millerems per year (measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

ND - Not detected.

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

ppm - Parts per million. One part per million equals one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into 250 gallons of iced tea.

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

ppb - Parts per billion. One part per billion is equal to one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into an Olympic-size swimming pool.

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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This report is mailed to all Dallas Water Utilities customers. It is available in Dallas public libraries and recreation centers and is on the city of Dallas website www.dallascityhall.com

For additional copies call 214/670-3147.

Dallas, the City that Works: Diverse, Vibrant and Progressive

City of Dallas

Publication No. 01/02-129

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