

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2008



PWSID#: 2470015

This report was prepared by:
S S Water Supply Corporation
10393 US Hwy 87 W
LaVernia, TX 78121

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (830) 779-2837.

Continuing Our Commitment

We are once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report for S S Water Supply Corporation. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2008. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.



For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Herb Williams, General Manager, at (830) 779-2837.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Corporation's Board Room, 10393 US Hwy 87 West, LaVernia, TX. You can also comment online through our web site at www.sswater.net or call (830) 779-2837.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The membership and customers of S S Water Supply Corporation obtain its water source from ground water. All water is pumped from the Carrizo Sands Aquifer. This is an excellent and abundant source that is located within our service area eliminating the transportation cost of supplying the community water.

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/crossconnection.html. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting 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. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. To learn more about drinking water regulations visit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Web site at www.tceq.com. You can also contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or visit their Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances

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; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be 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 types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our 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.

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.

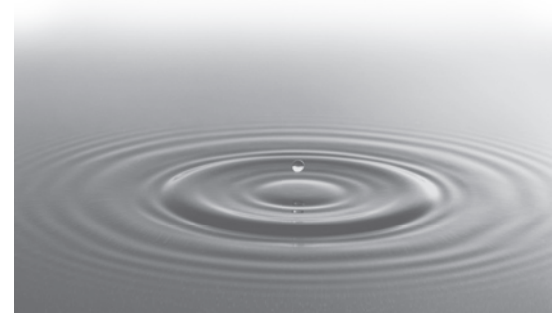
Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Go to the meter and see if the leak detection dial is spinning. If the dial is spinning you have a leak.

Lead and Drinking Water

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. We are 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.

Important Health Information

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



Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. 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. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts within our system, please contact us.

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.



What's growing in my pet's water bowl?

Dog and cat owners often notice the appearance of black or pink growths in their pet's water bowl. These growths come from various types of mold in the air - not the water. Similar growths can also be found on showerheads and shower curtains. Wash your pet's water bowl frequently and be sure to have plenty of fresh water available at all times.

Is it safe to drink water from a garden hose?

Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pets' drinking containers. There are hoses made with "food-grade" plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.

What makes water Hard?

If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. Hard water does not dissolve soap readily, so making lather for washing and cleaning is difficult. Conversely, water containing little calcium or magnesium is called soft water.

Should I put a brick in my toilet tank to save water?

Toilet flushing uses a lot of water: about 40% of a household's total water usage. Putting something in the toilet tank that takes up space, like a toilet dam or a water filled jug, is a good idea. But putting a brick in the tank is not a good idea. Bricks tend to crumble and might damage your toilet.

How much water is lost to a dripping faucet?

Dripping faucets waste a precious resource and it costs you money. As an example, if you have a faucet that drips 60 times a minute, this adds up to over 3 gallons each day or 1,225 gallons each year.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES						
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR OR RANGE	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AVERAGE LEVEL	LEVEL MIN-MAX	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2008–2005	2	2	0.11	0.072–0.168	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters ¹ (pCi/L)	2006–2005	50	0	6.6	6.2–7	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm) Free	2008	[4]	[<4]	1.0175	0.5–2.2	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2008–2005	100	100	0.6	0–2.6	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2006–2005	5	0	0.2	0–0.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2008–2006	4	4	0.28	0.15–0.5	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2006–2005	15	0	0.7	0–1.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2008	60	NA	3.9	0–8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	0.01	0–0.05	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2008	80	NA	4.9	0–14.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	0	0.612	0/30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	0	2	0/30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR OR RANGE	MCL	AVERAGE LEVEL	LEVEL MIN-MAX	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2008–2005	.05	0.007	0–0.023	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Chloride (ppm)	2008–2006	300	23	14–43	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
Copper (ppm)	2008–2005	1.0	0.008	0–0.029	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Hardness as CA/Mg (ppm)	2008–2006	NA	41	26–71	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium
Iron (ppm)	2008–2005	0.3	0.883	0–1.46	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
Magnesium (ppm)	2008–2005	NA	3.1	1.9–5	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Manganese (ppm)	2008–2005	.05	0.0347	0.0066–0.0768	Abundant naturally occurring element.
pH (Units)	2008–2006	>7.0	7.2	6.5–8.1	Measure of corrosivity of water
Sulfate (ppm)	2008–2006	300	16	10–32	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct of oil field activity.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO₃ (ppm)	2008–2006	NA	116	23–309	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2008–2006	1000	216	100–471	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
Zinc (ppm)	2008–2005	5	0.019	0–0.055	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element used in the metal industry.

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.

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.

NA: Not applicable

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

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).

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