

# 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Phone Number: (361) 777-4601

CITY OF PORTLAND

Available at: [www.portlandtx.com](http://www.portlandtx.com)

## Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Lead	<0.0001	0	1.3	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Copper	.0031	0	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

### Required Additional 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

## Total Coliform

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are heartier than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Coliform Bacteria	0	NA	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

\*Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.

**Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.**

## Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, and diarrhea and associated headaches.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Turbidity	0.26	100	0.3	NTU	Soil Runoff.

**WATER SOURCES:** 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, 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 before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

### Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from SURFACE water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: NUECES RIVER and SAN PATRICIO MWD TERMINAL RES 2. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes 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 allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Required language for ALL community public water supplies:

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immune-compromised 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.

### Public Participation Opportunities

**Date: Every First and Third Tuesday of Every Month**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Location: City Hall Council Chambers**

**1900 Billy G. Webb**

**Portland, TX 78374**

**Phone Number: (361) 777-4500**

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

### En Espanol

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar al tel.

( 361)777- 4601 para hablar con una persona bilinguie en espanol.

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

### 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 small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

### Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron), which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Year/ Constituent	Average	Range	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contaminant
2015 Barium (ppm)	0.127	NA	2	2	Discharge of drilling waste, erosion of natural deposits
2015 Fluoride (ppm)	0.5	0.04-0.89	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive
2015 Nitrate (ppm)	2.87	2.0-3.4	10	10	Petroleum/metal discharge, erosion of natural deposits
2012 Gross Beta Emitters (pCi/L)	8.60	NA	50	0	Radioactive decomposition of natural/man-made deposits
2015 Selenium (ppb)	0.003	NA	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits

**Organic Contaminants**

Year/Constituent	Average	Min	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contaminant
2015 Atrazine (ppb)	0.27	NA	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloroform	4.4	1.4	7.1	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromoform	6.3	1.2	13.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromodichloromethane	9.1	3.8	15.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane	10.2	4.8	17.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Disinfectant Byproducts**

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids	52.5	22.4	174.0	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes	30.1	20.7	46.6	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2015	Chlorine Residual	2.92	1.5	4.0	4	<4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control pathogens.

**Organic Contaminants TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED**

**Secondary and Other Constituents—Not Associated with Adverse Health Effects**

Many constituents, such as calcium, sodium, or irons, which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the USEPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Year/Constituent	Average	Range	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
2015 Aluminum (ppm)	0.03	0.05-0.2	0.05 to 0.2	Abundant naturally occurring element
2015 Bicarbonate (ppm)	170		NA	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone
2015 Calcium (ppm)	136	37-298	NA	Abundant naturally occurring element
2015 Chloride (ppm)	114	36-187	300	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water conditioning
2015 Hardness as Ca/Mg (ppm)	140	46-214	NA	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium
2015 Magnesium (ppm)	9.39		NA	Abundant naturally occurring element
2015 Manganese (ppm)	<0.001		0.05	Abundant naturally occurring element
2015 Nickel (ppm)	0.0015		NA	Erosion of natural deposits
2015 pH	7.9	7.1-8.9	6.5-8.5	Measure of corrosivity of water
2015 Sodium (ppm)	85.6		20,000	Erosion of natural deposits; oil field by-product
2015 Sulfate (ppm)	59	44-71	300	Naturally occurring; oil field by-product
2015 Total Alkalinity (ppm) as CaCO3	126	88-168	NA	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
2015 Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	412	236-605	1000	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water

**DEFINITIONS**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest permissible level of a contaminant 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 health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**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 contamination.

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

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

**ABBREVIATIONS**

- NTU - nephelometric turbidity units
- MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter