

Water Quality

Scenic & Serene Hills

2010 REPORT

Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal drinking water requirements. This Water Quality Report is a summary about the drinking water San Antonio Water System (SAWS) provides our customers.

The data in this report was prepared from the most recent required tests set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducts most of the water quality tests and provides the results for this report. Public water systems, like SAWS, are required by law to report every year on the type and quantity of substances that are in our water.

Where Our Water Comes From

During 2009—the testing period represented in this report—most of SAWS drinking water originated as groundwater from the Trinity aquifer. Additional information on water resources is available online at www.saws.org/waterresources.

Questions about your water quality report?

Call: 233-3673 or 233-3546
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Special Notice

For Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or Immune Problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain contaminants found in our drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

SAWS offers the public the opportunity to speak to us about your water needs. To find out when SAWS Board meetings are scheduled, call SAWS Public Affairs at 233-3246.

En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 210-704-7297 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

How to Read Your Water Quality Report

A water quality report, also called a consumer confidence report, lets you know what contaminants, if any, are in your drinking water and how these contaminants may affect your health. It lists all the regulated constituents that were detected in your water over the preceding calendar year.

Substance	Action Level	Concentration Range Found	Avg. Conc. Found	MCL	MCLG	Potential Source
Substance 1 (ppm)		0.024 – 0.112	0.05	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Substance 2 (ppb)		0 – 8.4	2.4	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Contaminants (2005-2009)

The year or years tests were conducted.

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements SAWS must follow.

The highest amount of a contaminant EPA allows in drinking water.

Below this level, a contaminant has no known or expected health risks.

How a contaminant ends up in SAWS drinking water.

Parts per billion-One ppb equals to one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons.

Parts per million-One ppm equals to one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons.

The amount from lowest to highest of a contaminant detected in SAWS drinking water.

The average amount of a contaminant detected in SAWS drinking water.

This describes some of the ways contaminants enter drinking water; wording is provided by EPA and may or may not apply to SAWS

This is your annual water quality report from San Antonio Water System.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: TRINITY MIDDLE. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(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.

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 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 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 concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

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.

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 (µg/L)

ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2005	Barium	0.021	0.021	0.021	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Chromium	3.5	3.5	3.5	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
2009	Fluoride	0.68	0.68	0.68	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2009	Nitrate	0.47	0.47	0.47	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Gross beta emitters	2.9	2.9	2.9	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2005	Gross alpha	1.6	1.6	1.6	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

Organic Contaminants TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2009	Chlorine Residual, Free	0.83	0.33	1.56	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2005	Total Haloacetic Acids	8	8	8	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2005	Total Trihalomethanes	5.2	5.2	5.2	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts WAIVED OR NOT YET SAMPLED

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		
2008	Bromoform	1.52	1.52	1.52	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.		
2008	Dibromochloromethane	1.77	1.77	1.77	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.		

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Lead	6.1	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2009	Copper	0.161	0	1.3	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>."

Turbidity NOT REQUIRED

Total Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2009	Bicarbonate	336	336	336	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2005	Calcium	74.9	74.9	74.9	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009	Chloride	17	17	17	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2005	Copper	0.011	0.011	0.011	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2006	Hardness as Ca/Mg	309	309	309	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2005	Lead	0.002	0.002	0.002	NA	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Magnesium	25.2	25.2	25.2	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2005	Nickel	0.003	0.003	0.003	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2009	pH	7	7	7	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2005	Sodium	9	9	9	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009	Sulfate	47	47	47	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	275	275	275	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2009	Total Dissolved Solids	363	363	363	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2005	Zinc	0.145	0.145	0.145	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.