

ANNUAL
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2015

Presented By
Hurst Creek M.U.D.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (512) 261-6281.

PWS ID#: TX2270172

Meeting the Challenge

Once again we are proud to present our annual drinking water report, covering all drinking water testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to your homes and businesses. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you, should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

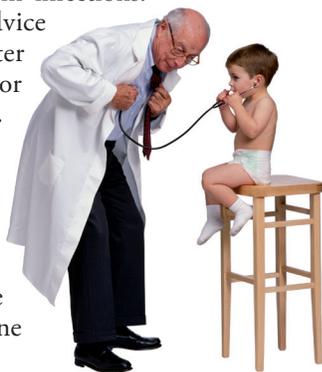
Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the third Monday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please call (512) 261-6281 for more information.

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 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.

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.

Emergency/Supplemental Water Sources

In August 2015, Hurst Creek MUD received approximately 312,000 gallons of water via an emergency interconnect with Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 17 (TCWID17). Because of temporary mechanical failures, water was obtained at this time to ensure uninterrupted service to HCM customers. To obtain information in regard to TCWID 17 water quality, please call (512) 266-1111. This information may also be obtained on the Web at <http://www.wcid17.org/quality/>.

Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state water regulatory agency, and it completed a source water assessment (SWA) for Lake Travis in 2003. The SWA is a report on the susceptibility of public drinking water systems to 227 drinking water contaminants. The results include a high, medium, or low rating for each contaminant, as well as a list of potential sources of contamination. A copy of this report is available at the Hurst Creek Municipal Utility District Office at 102 Trophy Drive, The Hills, Texas. You can access more information on the Internet at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/SWAP/tx_strategy.html/at_download/file.

What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. From 2006 to 2010, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go on the Web (<http://goo.gl/YkPMkg>) to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

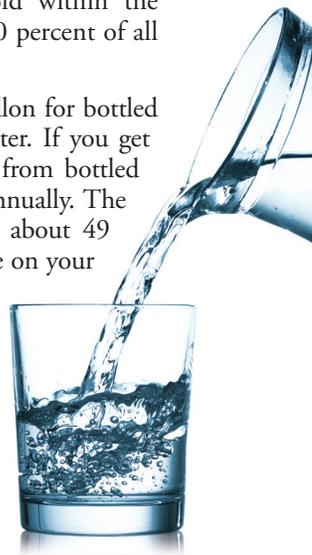
Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Kasey Belote, Public Works Supervisor, at (512) 261-6281.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing

in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a waste basket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products including nonbiodegradable wipes.

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.
- Check your irrigation controllers, make sure that you are watering on the appropriate days and times to help eliminate excessive watering and reduce water runoff.
- 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. Hurst Creek MUD has installed new meters throughout the district to help you monitor your daily water usage, leak detection, and help increase overall water conservation efforts. You are invited to call our office to initiate the set up of your own Waterscope online profile, so you may view and monitor your water usage. If you have questions or would like to set up your account, please contact us by replying to mmeehan@hurstcreekmud.org or calling our main number at (512) 261-6281.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water is obtained from Lake Travis, in the Colorado River watershed. Mansfield Dam was completed in 1941 and is a part of the Highland Lakes chain with a 369 billion gallon capacity. Our raw untreated water is purchased through a wholesale contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). More information on Lake Travis can be accessed on the Internet at www.lcra.org.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples 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 requires 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 SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.063	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2015	[4]	[4]	2.73	1.0–3.7	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2015	60	NA	18.9	10.2–30.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2015	10	10	0.31	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2015	80	NA	33.125	24.4–41.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2015	TT	NA	3.35	2.82–3.85	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity¹ (NTU)	2015	TT	NA	0.415	0.026–0.415	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2015	TT = 95% of samples < 0.3 NTU	NA	99.91	NA	No	Soil runoff

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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	1.3	0.23	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2014	15	0	1.3	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2015	200	NA	0.096	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2015	250	NA	49	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2015	1.0	NA	0.023	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2015	2.0	NA	0.23	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
pH (Units)	2015	6.5–8.5	NA	7.83	7.57–8.03	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2015	250	NA	42	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2015	500	NA	293	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2015	11	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Calcium (ppm)	2015	38.5	NA	Naturally occurring
Chloroform (ppb)	2015	18	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2015	3.9	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2015	0.0013	NA	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sodium (ppm)	2015	28.3	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; By-product of oil field activity
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2015	155	NA	Naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	2015	188	NA	Naturally occurring
Zinc (ppm)	2015	0.052	NA	NA

¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

² Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

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

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): SMCLs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like taste and odor.

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