

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants

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. 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, or 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 necessarily causes for health concerns. Therefore secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the Wells Branch MUD office at 251-9814.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhme) 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.

Please feel free to contact the MUD office, 251-9814, for assistance. Or call William Abshire at Crossroads Utility Services, the District's utility operations contractor, 246-1400, if you have questions about this report.

Questions?

Steps taken to correct: A valve survey was performed to assure proper water flow through-out the system. One valve identified as partially closed was opened fully. Additionally, the Operator identified and implemented regular additional flush points to improve the disinfectant residual by drawing fresher water into the far reaches of the system. Lastly, discussions are under way and the collection of data has begun to determine if re-chloramination facilities within the District are needed.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Total coliform MCL violation explanation: Wells Branch M.U.D. does not treat or re-chloraminate its potable water. The water used by the District is treated and disinfected by the City of Austin. It is believed that lower than desired levels of chloramine residual attributed to the MCL violation of "found" total coliform bacteria.

Violation Information

For more information on MUD operations, call District Manager Jesse Kennis at 251-9814. Consult the District's website: www.wellsbranchmud.com. Or visit a meeting of the MUD Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m., on the first or third Tuesday of the month at the Wells Branch Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff.

For more information on the City of Austin water system, contact the Water Utility, 972-0108.

Opportunities for public participation:

Wells Branch Municipal Utility District
2106 Klattenhoff
Austin, TX 78728

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 512-246-1400 - para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

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Wells Branch MUD works to assure that its system is not breached to allow any contamination. This effort includes a special pressure augmentation device to serve portions of the District. Wells Branch Municipal Utility District is committed to reliable provision of safe drinking water.

The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. The Food and Drug Administration regulations must prescribe the same limits for contaminants in bottled water.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has completed a Source Water Susceptibility for all drinking water systems that own their own sources. This report describes the susceptibility and types of contaminants that may come into contact with the drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The City of Austin received this assessment report. You can obtain information about this assessment by calling the City of Austin Water Utility Environmental and Regulatory Division at 972-0021.

Water sources

WELL-INFORMED CUSTOMERS ARE OUR BEST ALLIES.

Wells Branch water meets or exceeds all Federal (EPA) standards.

Your drinking water is supplied to you through the distribution system owned by Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, a political subdivision of the State of Texas. The District purchases drinking water for its residents from the City of Austin, which obtains surface water from the Colorado River as it flows into Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake. The City of Austin treats and filters the water from these lakes according to federal and state standards, removing harmful contaminants.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2008



PWS ID#: 2270227

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.

Lead and Drinking Water

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.

Important Health Information

Special Notice: Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or other Immune Problems... We drink the water, and our children do, too. That's important because we live and work here, too. Municipal Utility District are dedicated to supplying safe and sufficient drinking water to our neighbors. The Board of Directors and staff of Wells Branch Municipal Utility District are dedicated to supplying safe and sufficient drinking water to our neighbors. Mindful of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, Wells Branch MUD is happy to share information in about your drinking water. Much of the information in this report was supplied by the City of Austin Water Utility, which is the wholesale supplier of drinking water to the district.

Our drinking water is safe.

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds all Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

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 SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines (ppm)	2008	[4]	[4]	1.33	0.5–2.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i> ¹ (# positive samples)	2008	0	0	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste.
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	4	4	1.07	0.89–1.25	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2008	60	NA	13.7	10.6–17.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	0.2	0.19–0.2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2008	80	NA	32	29.7–33.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Coliform Bacteria ² (# positive samples)	2008	*	NA	5	NA	Yes	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2008	TT	NA	0.30	NA–0.30	No	Soil runoff.
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2008	TT	NA	100.00	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)	2007	1.3	1.3	0.014	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	0	1	0/30	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
Chloride (ppm)	2008	300	NA	29	29–29	No	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oilfield activity.
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	300	NA	26	25–27	No	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2008	1000	NA	157	152–162	No	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
pH (Units)	2008	>7.0	NA	9.4	9.4–9.4	No	Measure of corrosivity of water.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2008	12.67	11–16	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Bromoform (ppb)	2008	0.8	0.5–1.1	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chloroform (ppb)	2008	12.63	9.9–15	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2008	7.83	6.7–10	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

OTHER UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2008	52	50–54	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Carbonate (ppm)	2008	12	10–14	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Hardness as Ca/Mg (ppm)	2004	101	99–102	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
P. Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2008	10	8–12	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2008	63	61–65	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.

¹Footnote for Wells Branch Municipal Utility District: REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

²Footnote for Wells Branch Municipal Utility District: * Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.

³Footnote for Wells Branch Municipal Utility District: 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.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. 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.

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.

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).

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

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.

Where does your water come from?

Wells Branch Municipal Utility District purchases its water from the City of Austin Water Utility.

The sources for drinking water nationwide (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 and can be polluted by animals or human activity.

The Colorado River watershed reaches many miles upstream, passing through agricultural fields and urban areas. Contaminants that may be present in the untreated water include microbes; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; pesticides; herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemicals, from industrial or petroleum use; and radioactive materials.

Wholesale customers of the City of Austin Water Utility - such as Wells Branch - receive drinking water treated at three treatment plants that rely on surface water from the Colorado River as it flows into Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake. The City of Austin treats and filters the water from these lakes, according to federal and state standards, to remove harmful contaminants.

