

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

*Presented By*  
**City of Atlanta, Texas**

ATLANTA

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono 903-796-7153 ext. 114.

PWS ID#: TX0340001



## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. 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 you. 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 our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.



## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The city council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 315 North Buckner Street.

## Water Treatment Process

The water is treated at the Graphic Packaging International Texarkana Mill. The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to an aeration tank, which allows for oxidation of high iron levels. The water then goes to a mixing tank where poly-aluminum chloride and soda ash are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles (called floc) to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. Chlorine is then added for disinfection. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges.

Chlorine is added again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, soda ash (to adjust the final pH and alkalinity), fluoride (to prevent tooth decay), and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized underground reservoirs and water towers and into your home or business.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Atlanta receives water from Lake Wright Patman through a purchase contract with the City of Texarkana. The lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir formed on the Sulphur River in Bowie and Cass Counties by Wright Patman Dam. The reservoir provides flood control and water conservation for the communities downstream from the dam. The lake is also a popular recreational destination.



## 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.



## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Becky Allen, Water Utility Representative, at (903) 796-7153, ext. 114.



## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**800**  
TRILLION

**1** The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**99**

**50** The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's surface that is covered by water.

**71**

**330**  
MILLION The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

The percent of the human brain that contains water.

**75**

## 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.

## 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 we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set (unless a TOC violation is noted in the Violation column).

The state recommends monitoring 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									
				City of Atlanta, Texas		Graphic Packaging Mill			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2022	3	3	NA	NA	0.0001	NA	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	NA	NA	0.051	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2021*	[4]	[4]	1.58	0.54–2.20	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	1.66	0.68–2.20	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	NA	NA	0.0625	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	15	3.8–17.2	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	2022	50	50	NA	NA	0.0003	NA	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.01	0.01–0.01	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	75	15–67.9	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2022	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.52	ND–0.52	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2022	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	98.9	NA	No	Soil runoff

\*This information should have been in the 2021 CCR

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
				City of Atlanta, Texas		Graphic Packaging Mill			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.055	0	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	1.5	0	NA	NA	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>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.

## Water Conservation Tips

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. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**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.

**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.

