

2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF SCHERTZ

Phone No: (210) 658-7065

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, 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 the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: Monday - Friday

Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location: 10 Commercial Place, #2

Phone No: (210) 658-7065

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

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.

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, and 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.

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) 658 - 7065 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Aquifer: Carrizo Wilcox
A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe 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 will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. 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
2006 2002	Arsenic <i>* The arsenic value was effective January 23, 2006. In the event of a violation, you will be notified.</i>	5	0	10	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2006 2002	Barium	0.08	0.068	0.092	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2006 2002	Chromium	2.4	0	4.8	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
2006 2002	Fluoride	0.13	0.1	0.17	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2006 2002	Nitrate	0.95	0	1.89	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2006 2002	Selenium	19.5	0	39	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
2006 2002	Gross beta emitters	4	0	8	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2006 2002	Gross alpha	0.75	0	1.5	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic decreased from 0.05 mg/L (50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/L (10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is between 5 ppb and 10 ppb, the following information is required by EPA:

"While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems."

Organic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2003	Xylenes	2.3	0	9.2	10000	10000	ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories.
2003 2002	Toluene	1.9	0	5.7	1000	1000	ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories.
2003 2002	Ethylbenzene	0.47	0	1.4	700	700	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2006	Chlorine Residual, Free	1.81	1.2	3	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
2006	Total Haloacetic Acids	1.1	1	1.1	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2006	Total Trihalomethanes	8.9	8.5	9.3	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Contaminants NOT REPORTED OR NONE DETECTED

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2004	Lead	2.2	1	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2004	Copper	0.041	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

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
2006 2002	Bicarbonate	169	101	236	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2006 2002	Calcium	50.6	18.4	82.8	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006	Chloride	26	26	26	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2006 2002	Copper	0.001	0	0.003	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2002 *	Hardness as Ca/Mg	265	265	265	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2006 2002	Iron	0.008	0	0.016	.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2006 2002	Lead	0.001	0	0.001	NA	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2006 2002	Magnesium	8.7	3.4	14.1	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006 2002	Manganese	0.0033	0	0.0065	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006 2002	Nickel	0.002	0.001	0.003	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2006 2002	pH	7.6	7.6	7.7	7	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2006 2002	Sodium	22	10	34	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006 2002	Sulfate	22	19	26	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006 2002	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	160	83	236	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2006 2002	Total Dissolved Solids	235	185	284	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2006	Total Hardness as CaCO3	60	60	60	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2006 2002	Zinc	0.005	0	0.01	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.

*2002 HARDNESS AS Ca/Mg RESULTS INDICATED ARE FROM EDWARDS AQUIFER WATER SOURCE. HARDNESS TESTING AND RESULTS OCCUR EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS.

CITY OF SCHERTZ PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER SINCE 2003 IS THE CARRIZO WILCOX AQUIFER WITH HARDNESS AS Ca/Mg RESULTS OF:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Average Level</u>	<u>Minimum Level</u>	<u>Maximum Level</u>	<u>Secondary Limit</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Source of Constituent</u>
Hardness as Ca/Mg	56	56	56	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring Calcium and Magnesium

