

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



Reporting Year 2024



Presented By:
City of Baytown Texas

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (281) 420-5310.

PWS ID#: 1010003



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of our source water (Trinity River), and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

The TCEQ completed an assessment of our water sources, and the results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

Source Water Description

Our drinking water is obtained from Trinity River, a surface water source. The water provided to the city of Baytown comes from the Baytown Area Water Authority by way of the Coastal Water Authority Canal.



Important Health Information

Some people 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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their 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.



Our Fluoride Levels

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system, Baytown Area Water Authority, has a fluoride concentration of 0.68 ppm. On January 24, 2025, the drinking water provided by your public water system, Baytown Area Water Authority, experienced a fluoride concentration exceedance of 2.81 ppm at 9:33 a.m. Fluoride concentration was reduced by Baytown Area Water Authority operations staff and brought below the secondary constituent level (SCL) of 2.0 ppm by 8:13 p.m. of the same day.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in brown staining and pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 ppm of fluoride (the U.S. EPA's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 ppm of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 ppm because of this cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please contact Plant Superintendent Michael Gay of Baytown Area Water Authority at (281) 420-5310.

QUESTIONS?

For any drinking water questions, or for more information about this report, please call Michael Gay, Plant Superintendent, at (281) 420-5310.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Baytown Area Water Authority at (281) 420-5310 or 7425 Thompson Road, Baytown TX 77521.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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 and, 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.

Community Participation

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend a scheduled public meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Baytown City Hall, 2401 Market Street. For more information, please call (281) 420-5310.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



About Our Monitoring Violation

Failure to Submit a Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report

The City of Baytown, Public Water System (PWS) ID 1010003, has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by TCEQ in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F. Public water systems are required to properly disinfect water before distribution, maintain acceptable disinfection residuals within the distribution system, monitor the disinfectant residual at various locations throughout the distribution system, and report the results of that monitoring to the TCEQ on a quarterly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water is safe from microbial contamination.

Monitoring Period of Violation: This violation occurred in the first quarter monitoring period, January 1 through March 31, 2024. We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

Corrective Actions: The City of Baytown has submitted all necessary documentation to TCEQ. The First Quarter DLQOR was submitted to TCEQ on May 13, 2024, to resolve the violation status. To prevent future occurrences, we are reestablishing an online submission account with TCEQ to ensure timely notification of account changes, providing additional training to city staff on additional submission options, and implementing additional submission review timelines to catch and resolve any issues before they affect report submissions.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Michael Gay III at (281) 420-5310.

Dates Posted/Delivered: July 24, 2024; June 1, 2025

All community and nontransient noncommunity PWS that use only purchased water or groundwater must regularly monitor the level of disinfectant in the distribution system and use the DLQOR to report this information to the TCEQ every quarter in a manner that is consistent with TCEQ Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water is safe from microbial contamination.

As a result of an administrative oversight during first quarter, January 1 through March 31, 2024, we neglected to submit the DLQOR as required by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. At no time did this incident pose a threat to public health and safety, nor did it have any impact on the high-quality drinking water provided to our customers. To ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future, we have implemented a computerized scheduling system that will automatically notify us when reports are due to be submitted.

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 (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The FDA 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, visit goo.gl/jxb6xG.



Treatment Train Description

The Baytown Area Water Authority treats your water using conventional methods to reduce possible harmful contaminants that may be in the source water. Ferric chloride and cationic polymer, a coagulant aid, achieve coagulation. The treated water is then filtered through anthracite coal, sand, and gravel. Disinfection is achieved by the addition of ammonia and chlorine, which form monochloramines.

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. Baytown Area Water Authority 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead, 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Details concerning Baytown's lead service inventory program may be found online at www.baytown.org/1392. Please contact us directly if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done at utilities@baytown.org or by phone at (281) 420-5300.

Testing for *Cryptosporidium*

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of source and finished water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks; however, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six 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.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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).

SCL (Secondary Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

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. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

Although *E. coli* was detected, the water system is not in violation of the *E. coli* maximum contaminant level (MCL).

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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

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).

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Asbestos (MFL)	2022	7	7	0.197	0.197–0.197	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine (ppb)	2024	3	3	0.14	0.14–0.14	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.054	0.051–0.058	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2024	50 ¹	0	4.9	4.9–4.9	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	3.56	2.78–4.28	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2024	5	0	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2024	200	200	0.15	0.12–0.18	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2024	6	0	0.6	0.6–0.6	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.5875	0.575–0.60	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	35.14	16.6–56.60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	0.5	0.5–0.5	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Simazine (ppb)	2024	4	4	0.11	0.09–0.14	No	Herbicide runoff
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2024	TT	NA	5.43	3.28–8.37	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	2024	TT ²	NA	35%	23%–48%	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	50.43	18.7–75.30	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.25	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	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 %ILE)	RANGE LOW- HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.599	NA	0/33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	0.0022	NA	0/33	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

² The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

³ 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 Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires EPA to issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs) every 5 years (UCMR).

UCMR 5 requires monitoring by certain PWSs for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water between 2023 and 2025. EPA established legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA as contaminants with individual MCLs, and PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS using a Hazard Index MCL to account for the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS in drinking water.

All community water systems (CWSs) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs) serving 3,300 or more people and a nationally representative sample of those serving fewer than 3,300 people are required to monitor during a single 12-month timeframe in the three years of monitoring.

UCMR 5 SUBSTANCES

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	YEAR SAMPLED	PWS ID	RESULT (µg/L)	REGULATORY LEVEL (µg/L)	SAMPLE LOCATION	FACILITY NAME
PFBA	2024	1010003	0.0101	0.005	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFBA	2024	1010003	0.0118	0.005	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFBS	2024	1010003	0.0051	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFBS	2024	1010003	0.0047	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHpA	2024	1010003	0.0032	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHpA	2024	1010003	0.0031	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHxA	2024	1010003	0.0095	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHxA	2024	1010003	0.0094	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHxS	2024	1010003	0.0045	0.001	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFHxS	2024	1010003	0.0044	0.001	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFOS	2024	1010003	0.0059	0.004	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFOS	2024	1010003	0.0058	0.004	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFPeA	2024	1010003	0.0102	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown
PFPeA	2024	1010003	0.0101	0.003	Entry Point	City of Baytown