



Dept. of Public Works  
City of Galveston  
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**City of Galveston**  
**Water Quality Report 2016**  
**For the Year Ending 12/31/15**

# City of Galveston 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Galveston Municipal Utilities Department

Customer Service (409) 797-3550

Main Office (409) 797-3630

## Special Notice

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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## OUR DRINKING WATER

### IS REGULATED

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.

### Source of Drinking Water

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:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas station, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Public Participation Opportunities

There are many opportunities available to learn more about the City of Galveston's Municipal Utilities Department and water quality. For inquiries, questions or concerns about water quality, public participation, policy decisions or to request a speaker for your group, call (409) 797-3630.

The Municipal Utilities Department is part of the city government. All legislative, policy, and budgetary decisions for the department are made by the City Council. Unless otherwise posted, City Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at 823 Rosenberg.

Internet access to the City of Galveston is:  
<http://www.galvestontx.gov>

### En Espanol

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobres este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (409) 797-3630 par hablar con una persona bilingue en Espanol.

## Where do we get our Water?

In September of 2001, the City of Galveston started to receive its water supply from the Gulf Coast Water Authority's Thomas A. Mackey Water Treatment Plant in Texas City. The Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) owns 212 million gallons per day in water rights from the Brazos River and provides water for agriculture, industry and municipal use. All water travels through 150 miles of canals stretching from the Brazos River, across Fort Bend, Brazoria and Galveston Counties to the GCWA's raw water reservoir located near Highway 146 in Texas City.

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes 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 allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## Required Additional Health Information for Lead

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 you 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects may be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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.

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>

Texas Department of Health  
<http://www.tdh.texas.gov>

# 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.

## Abbreviations/Definitions:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - MCLG** - 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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level - MCL** - The highest permissible 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level-MRD** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water without causing an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects.
- Treatment Technique** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Turbidity** - A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units** - This is the unit used to measure water turbidity.
- MFL - Million fibers per liter** - A measure of asbestos.
- pCi/L - Picocuries per liter** - A measurement of radioactivity in water.
- ppm - Parts per million** - One part per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ppb - Parts per billion** - One part per billion, or micrograms per liter.
- ppt - Parts per trillion** - One part per trillion, or nanograms per liter.
- ppq - Parts per quadrillion** - One part per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.

## Inorganic Contaminants

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Barium	0.0763	0.0763	0.0763	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Fluoride	0.20	0.20	0.20	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate	1.23	1.23	1.23	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Gross beta emitters	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

### Organic Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Highest Average	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Simazine	0.24	0.24	0.24	4	4	ppb	Herbicide runoff.
2015	Atrazine	0.20	0.20	0.20	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids	16.4	6.0	29.9	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes	53.2	25.9	75.8	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

### Required Additional Health Information about Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloroform	14.9	3.8	130.5	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromoform	3.5	1.0	7.8	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromodichloromethane	19.5	10.0	29.6	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane	15.6	6.5	28.2	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Bromoform, chloroform, bromodichloromethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

## Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Lead	<0.0010	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Copper	0.0026	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

## Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Turbidity	0.90	98.9%	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

## COLIFORMS

### What are coliforms?

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are harder than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, *E. coli*, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (*E. coli*) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material. The following table indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing by your water supplier last year.

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive <i>E. coli</i> or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive	4	0	1	No	Naturally present in the environment

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Source
2015	Chloramines	2.24	0.50	3.50	4.0	4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

**Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents**  
(No associated adverse health effects)

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2015	Bicarbonate	127	127	127	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2015	Calcium	37.0	37.0	37.0	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2015	Chloride	51	51	51	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2015	Copper	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2015	Magnesium	6.95	6.95	6.95	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2015	Nickel	0.0023	0.0023	0.0023	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	pH	8.1	8.1	8.1	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2015	Sodium	37.2	37.2	37.2	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2015	Sulfate	38	38	38	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2015	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	104	104	104	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2015	Total Dissolved Solids	251	251	251	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2015	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	121	121	121	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2015	Zinc	0.124	0.124	0.124	5	Ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.