

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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 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.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Garry Knight, Water Department Superintendent, at (985) 277-5951.

Questions?

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

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 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.

MCL (TRC) Monthly Maximum Contaminant Level Violation Coliform (TCR) 12-1-2009 - 12-31-2009

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.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'medium'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

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.

Our water source(s) are listed below:

1. Chevy Well, City of Hammond Ground Water
2. Zennuray Well, City of Hammond Ground Water
3. 190 East Well, City of Hammond Ground Water
4. Blanckburn Well, City of Hammond Ground Water
5. Westin Oaks Well, City of Hammond Ground Water
6. Hammond Rec. Well, City of Hammond Ground Water

The City of Hammond Water Department
PO Box 2788
Hammond, LA 70404

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WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2009

Presented By:

THE CITY OF HAMMOND WATER DEPARTMENT

PWS ID#: LA1105009

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.

Important Health Information

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions, we are always available to assist you.

ensuring the quality of our water. and protect our water resources. We are committed to we make to continually improve the treatment process drinking water. we want you to understand the efforts to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of con agua potable. Traduzcalo o hablé



Maintaining High Standards

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hablé

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. 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 the water poses a health risk.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	2009	5	0	1.5	1.1-1.5	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2009	4	4	.5	.2-.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2009	80	0	6	6-6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria ¹ (ppm)	2009	0	0	2	NA	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

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
Lead (ppb)	2008	15	0	2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹Footnote for The City of Hammond Water Department: Our water system tested a minimum of 20 samples per monthly sample(s) in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report we had the noted detections for Microbiological contaminants:

On [December 2009] we were informed that two of our routine bacteria samples collected on [December 2009] was total coliform positive. As required by the Ground Water Rule, we collected [sampled / 16 samples] from [2 samples / well, 1 upstream, 1/ violation site, 1/downstream violation site] for Total Coliform contamination analysis. All 16 samples was negative for Total Coliform contamination up on resampling. In accordance to the Total Coliform Rule, we sent notices to all of our customers of these positive samples.

Our water system tests a minimum of 20 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants.

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

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.

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.



Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4-6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Should I use hot water to make baby formula?

No. Hot water may contain impurities such as rust, copper, and lead that come from the hot water heater and plumbing in your house. These impurities can generally dissolve into hot water faster than into cold water.

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

Should I be concerned about what I'm pouring down my drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

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 could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Why save water?

Although 80% of the Earth's surface is water, only 1% is suitable for drinking. The rest is either salt water or is permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

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.

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.