

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By
**Water Works District
No. 3 of Rapides Parish**

PWS ID#: LA1079017



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.

Important Health Information

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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

—W.H. Auden

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. We are 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.

Our Board Members

- D. W. “Dub” Williams, President
- Elizabeth Lindsay, Vice President
- Billy McKay, Secretary
- Oscar Coody
- Marion Simpson
- Don O’Neal
- Russell Flowers
- Lane Lavespere
- Greg Collins

Source Water Assessment

We now have a Source Water Protection Plan available from our office that provides information such as potential sources of contamination to the water supply. This assessment includes a delineated area around our wells or intakes through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within these delineated areas and a determination of the water supply’s susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. The overall susceptibility rating for our water source is medium. A susceptibility rating of medium does not imply poor water quality; rather, it signifies the system’s potential to become contaminated within the assessment area.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our primary water source consists of four groundwater wells and a surface water purification plant that is fed by Big Creek, near Pollock.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jimmy R. French, General Manager, at (318) 640-1379.

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 dissolves 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.



Our Report Card

The Louisiana Department of Health issues letter grades reflective of community water system quality and performance. We received a grade of B. These grades are based on seven standards evaluating the infrastructure, accountability, and overall health risk of drinking water to consumers. More information on these grades can be found at www.ldh.la.gov/watergrade.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Water Works office, 1306 Third Street, Pineville. Call (318) 640-1379 for additional information.

Please visit our website at www.wwd3.com! You can view or pay your bill, set up a new service, sign up for updates by email, or just keep up with ongoing projects. You can still pay by phone with a credit card or mail your payment to P.O. Box 580, Tioga, LA 71477.



Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.



FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

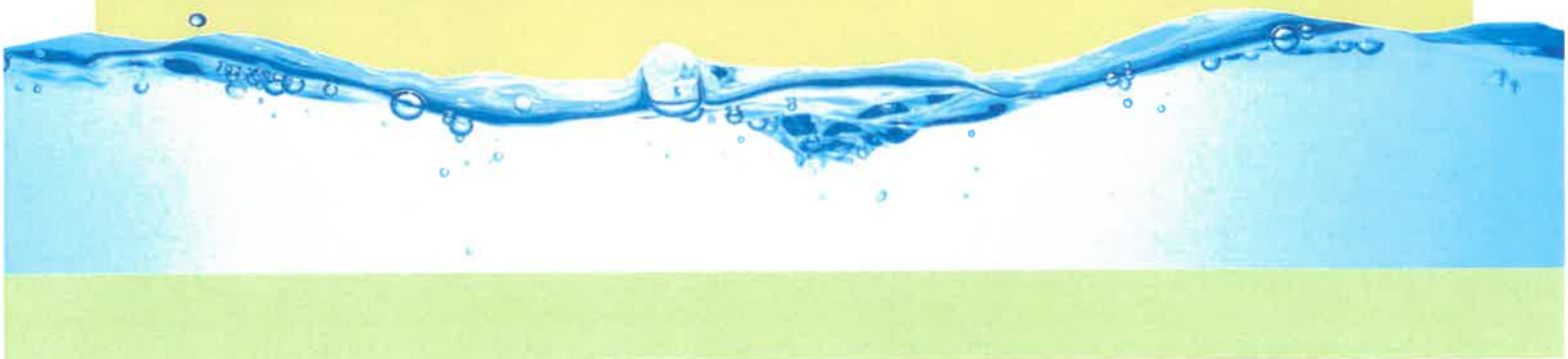
- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container, such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

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>.



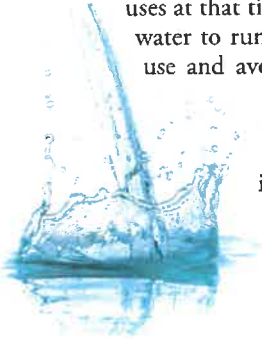
Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.



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 Food and Drug Administration (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 <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the abovementioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. *Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated 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.

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										
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Chloramines (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	2.6	0.09–3.94	No	Water additive used to control microbes			
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2022	5	0	0.414	ND–0.414	No	Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2022	NA	50 ¹	2.01	ND–2.01	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits			
HAA5 [Donahue Ferry at Whittington] (ppb)	2022	60	0	10 ²	5.7–8.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
HAA5 [point of entry] (ppb)	2022	60	0	27 ²	15.9–35.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
HAA5 [Rifle Range Road] (ppb)	2022	60	0	15 ²	5.3–5.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
HAA5 [Tioga Road at Adams Drive] (ppb)	2022	60	0	27 ²	13.7–37.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.1	ND–0.1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits			
TTHM [Donahue Ferry at Whittington] (ppb)	2022	80	0	6 ²	4–6.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
TTHM [point of entry] (ppb)	2022	80	0	9 ²	7.7–12.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
TTHM [Rifle Range Road] (ppb)	2022	80	0	5 ²	2.5–5.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
TTHM [Tioga Road at Adams Drive] (ppb)	2022	80	0	9 ²	6.8–11.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection			
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2022	TT	NA	0.10	0.01–0.10	No	Soil runoff			
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2022	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)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	1.3	0.2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0	0.005	0/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits			
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES										
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Aluminum (ppb)	2022	200	NA	0.67	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes			
Chloride (ppm)	2022	250	NA	11	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits			
Iron (ppb)	2022	300	NA	10	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes			
Manganese (ppb)	2022	50	NA	30	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits			
pH (units)	2022	6.5–8.5	NA	5.37	NA	No	Naturally occurring			
Sulfate (ppm)	2022	250	NA	18	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes			

¹The gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirems per year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. The U.S. EPA uses 50 pCi/L as a screening level.

²Highest locational running annual average.

³Turbidity 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.

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.

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).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum 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.

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, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one 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 can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

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 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

