



Drinking Water Quality Report

June 2007

Based on 2006 data

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 those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders as well as the 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 lesson the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The City of Haltom City Water Department wants you to be fully informed about the water quality in your community. We work in partnership with the City of Fort Worth to provide safe, reliable water as well as wastewater services with environmental integrity.

This report is about the quality of drinking water you received in 2006. You will see that the water treated and delivered was of higher quality than is required by state and federal standards.

The process of water treatment is complex. We have attempted to make this information as easy as possible to understand. Haltom City purchases drinking water from the City of Fort Worth, therefore, much of the data in this report references their water system. Should you have questions regarding any information in this report, please call:

- **Haltom City Public Works Department,**
817-834-9036, Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Fort Worth data, 817-572-3154**
- **Billing/new accounts**
Haltom City Water Department,
817- 222-7717, Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Turning lake water into drinking water

Although the water in Fort Worth's reservoirs is of high quality, it still must be treated before it is sent to you. Large pipes bring water from the lakes to four water treatment plants. There it undergoes five purification steps:

1. Chemicals are added which encourage suspended particles in the water to clump together so they become heavy enough to settle to the bottom of the treatment basin.
2. These particles are allowed to settle for about two to six hours.
3. The water is filtered through more than four feet of coal, sand and gravel.
4. The alkalinity of the water is stabilized so it won't dissolve metals from plumbing as it passes through.
5. A strong disinfectant, ozone or chloramines (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) is added to kill harmful microorganisms, such as typhoid and polio. Combining chlorine and ammonia is more beneficial than adding chlorine alone. Small amounts of fluoride are added to help prevent tooth decay.

Where do we get our water?

Fort Worth uses only surface water from six lakes. The West Fork of the Trinity River begins to the northwest and includes Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Worth. Lake Benbrook is located in southwest Tarrant County on the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. About 80 miles to the southeast are the Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs. The City of Fort Worth owns Lake Worth and monitors its water quality. The five lakes are owned and/or operated by the Tarrant Regional Water District.

What's in the water?

As water travels over the land's surface 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 in untreated water include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and

Regulated at the treatment plant (Fort Worth data)

Substance	Range of Detections	Level Found	Max. Contaminant Level	Max. Contaminant Level Goal	Common Sources of Substance in Water
Barium (ppm)	0.033 to .058	0.058	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling waste
Beta particles & Photon emitters (pCi/L)	4.6 to 6.6	6.6	50	N/A	Decay of natural & man-made deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive & may emit forms of radiation known as photons & beta radiation
Fluoride (ppm)	.3 to 1.1	1.1	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm, measured as Nitrogen)	.12 to .46	.46	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm measured as Nitrogen)	0 to 0.35	0.035	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (ppb)	0 to 4.6	4.6	10	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	7 to 16.6	16.6	60	N/A	See above
Total (ppb) Trihalomethanes	13.1 to 38.1	38.1	80	N/A	See above
Total Coliforms (including fecal coliforms & E. coli)	% of positive samples 0 to 0.8	In 0.8% of monthly samples	Presence in 5% of monthly samples	0	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment as well as feces; fecal coliforms & E. coli only come from human, animal waste
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	.42 100%	TT % of samples <0.3 NTU	N/A	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	TT=% removal	1	1	N/A	Naturally occurring

bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants from industrial processes and petroleum use; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminant and potential health effects may be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Taste and odor

Your water can have an unpleasant taste and odor, but it is still safe to drink. This is an aesthetic problem and not a health-related concern.

Microscopic organisms such as algae can create a taste and/or odor problem, especially during the hot summer months. In past years, taste and odor problems have been experienced in water from Richland-Chambers

Unregulated substances

Substance	Range of Detection	Level Found	Max. contaminant Level	Max. contaminant Level Goal	Common Source of Substance
Chloral Hydrate (ppb)	0 to 2.1	2.1	Not regulated	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	0 to 2	2	Not regulated	0	See above
Bromodi-chloro-methane (ppb)	0 to 19.1	19.1	Not regulated	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection; not regulated individually, included in Total Trihalomethanes
Chloroform (ppb)	0 to 22.1	22.1	Not regulated	0	See above
Dibromochloro-methane (ppb)	0 to 14	14	Not regulated	60	See above
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	0 to 17.6	17.6	Not regulated	0	See above
Trichloroacetic Acid	0 to 6.1	6.1	Not regulated	300	See above

Reservoir. However, episode events may occur in any reservoir for a number of reasons, such as a change in temperature and excessive rainfall or flooding. The Tarrant Regional Water District and the Haltom City Water Department continually study the best way to remove these tastes and odors and treat the water. In the meantime, be assured the water is safe to drink.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite affecting the digestive tracts of humans and animals. It is shed in feces and, when ingested, may result in diarrhea, cramps, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. No specific drug therapy has proven to be effective, but people with healthy immune systems usually recover within two weeks. Individuals with weak immune systems may be unable to clear the parasite and suffer chronic and debilitating illness.

Fort Worth has tested for cryptosporidium in both the lake water and treated water for many years and has not detected it.

Source Water Assessments

Our concern with drinking water begins while it is still in the lakes. Fort Worth monitors water quality in Lake Worth

and participates with the Tarrant Regional Water District to ensure the other lakes are regularly tested. Although the source water assessments are not completed on the six lakes, it is known that the herbicide Atrazine is a concern for Richland Chambers Reservoir. Farmers use Atrazine to kill weeds without harming corn, sorghum and other row crops.

The Tarrant Regional Water District is working with farmers to develop management plans for their agricultural practices that will minimize Atrazine's impact to the water supply. Also involved in this voluntary program are several state and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the chemical industry. The water district has increased its data collection and analysis program to better define and predict any problematic areas.

The Haltom City Water Department, on a weekly basis, monitors the raw water for Atrazine and adds powder activated carbon (PAC) to the treatment process when Atrazine is detected at one part per billion. PAC has been shown to be effective in removing Atrazine.

For information on source water protection efforts, contact Tarrant Regional Water District's Environmental Services Manager at 817-335-2491.

Regulated in the distribution system (Haltom City data)

Substance	Range of Detections	Haltom City water	Max. Contaminant Level	Max. Contaminant Level Goal	Possible Source of Substance
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	4.9 to 48.9	80	N/A	Chlorine by-products
Total Coliforms* (including fecal coliform & E. coli)	0 to .25% monthly samples	Highest Month	5% of monthly samples	0	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment as well as feces; fecal coliforms & E. coli only come from human & animal fecal waste
Haloacetic Acids (HHA)	ppb	ND to 19.9	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

*No fecal coliform bacteria was detected.

Regulated at the customer's tap (Haltom City data)

Substance	90th Percentile Value	# Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Max. Contaminant Level Goal	Possible Source of Substance
*Lead (ppb)	.002 mg/l	0	15	0	Corrosion of customer plumbing service connection
*Copper (ppb)	.613 mg/l	0	1.3	0	See above

*Note: Because Haltom City historically has low levels of lead and copper in its water, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires this monitoring occur only once every three years. The test results shown are 2005 data. The next monitoring will be in 2008.

Understanding the charts: *this list explains the terms used in the charts*

- NTU**—Nephelometric Turbidity Units—used to measure water turbidity
- ND** Not detectable
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Action Level**—concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Turbidity**—a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor this because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- ppm**—parts per million—One ppm equals one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into 250 gallons of iced tea.
- ppb**—parts per billion—One ppb is equal to one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into an Olympic-sized swimming pool.
- Treatment Technique**—required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- pCi/L**—picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water. One pCi/L is 10-12 curries and is the quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.
- Total Coliform Bacteria**—indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water. While not disease causing, they are often found in association with other microbes causing disease. They are more hardy than many disease causing organisms; therefore, their absence is a good indication the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.
- Fecal Coliform bacteria**—members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and passed into the environment through feces. Presence of FCB (E. coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination
- mg/L** - milligrams per liter