

CITY OF LUFKIN

2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Customer Service: (936) 633-0288 FAX: (936) 634-7017

Website: www.cityoflufkin.com

SEVEN REASON TO DRINK OUR PUBLIC WATER RATHER THAN BOTTLED WATER AND SWEET DRINKS

By Dr. Warren S. Guy, DDS, PhD.

This report from the Lufkin Public Works Department is best interpreted to say, “*Your tap water is pure and safe and meets very high standards mandated by the EPA.*” Be encouraged to drink it.

Following are seven reason to choose tap water instead of bottled water and sweet drinks.

1. Your tap water meets higher standards than bottled water. FDA standards for bottled water are lower than the EPA standards your bottled meets. You do not get reports from your bottled water company like this citywide report. You do not know whether bottled water is pure or not.

Special Notice for the Elderly, Infants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general populations. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk form infections. These people should seek the advice about drinking water from their heath care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available form the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

2. Your tap water is supplied at very low cost to you. You pay 100 to 10,000 times more for bottled water. It is inconvenient and costly to transport bottled water. Tap water is delivered free right to your faucet.
3. It is costly to dispose of all the plastic containers, bottles and cans in which bottled water and sweet drinks are packaged. They litter our highways, lakeshores and beaches.
4. Clean water is a major determinant in the public health. Our water department is to be commended. Chlorination of tap water greatly reduces the level of microorganisms in tap water. One is very unlikely to contract water-borne diseases from our tap water. By comparison bottled water may be stored in plastic containers for long periods of time in warehouses without chlorine. Bacteria counts in bottled water are higher than tap water. (Reports available online to support this. Search “bottled water vs. tap water” to be better informed.)
5. Tap water is a source of essential minerals and trace elements in our diet. Lufkin water is taken from an aquifer deep underground. Minerals dissolve in the water that are useful to us. By contrast, minerals are removed from bottled water treated by distillation and reverse osmosis.

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Visit Us

City Hall
300 E. Shepherd Ave.
Lufkin, Texas 75902
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Water Quality Complaints

Contact: Debra Cassidy at
(936) 633-0288.

City Council Meets the 1st and 3rd of each month at 5:00 p.m. For more information call (936)633-0243.

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

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.

CONTACT US

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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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

6. Sweet Drinks contribute to bad health.
 - a. Sweet drinks cause obesity, our number one health problem. They are made with water of unknown quality. Some are contaminated with heavy metals. Obesity is associated with diabetes, heart disease, bad knee joints, airway obstruction, sleep apnea, attention deficit disorders and many other health problems. Evidence against sweet drinks is so compelling that they are being removed from our schools nationwide.
 - b. Sweet Drinks cause tooth decay. They contain acid and chelating agents as well as lots of sugar. These ingredients act to leach mineral out of our teeth and cause dental decay, especially when they are sipped over long periods of the day.
 - c. Sweet drinks contain synthetic chemicals, the long-term effects of consumption of which are uncertain. Carbonated beverages contain phosphoric acid and may contribute to osteoporosis. Other chemicals include preservatives, coloring agents and artificial sweeteners. Is it safe to consume these daily for years? Maybe not. Those drinks with the diuretic, caffeine, do not hydrate body tissues well.
7. Lufkin water prevents tooth decay. Fluoride is added in just the right amount for our climate conditions so that, if we drink it, it prevents about half of the cavities we would otherwise get. This is widely known to be one of the most effective public health measures ever provided.

Many people do not like the taste or odor of Lufkin water. This results in part from the presence of hydrogen sulfide, a harmless gas. Hydrogen sulfide, as well as any excess chlorine, can be removed easily and inexpensively with a charcoal filter. These filters are installed on the sink faucet and behind the refrigerator and are readily available at your grocery store. Charcoal filters do not remove minerals or fluoride but do remove organic contaminants and some heavy metals. Many people put charcoal canister filters in series with a particle filter under their kitchen sink and use a separate drinking water faucet for purified water.

Some people like the convenience of having a bottle of water in their car or at work. Just fill your bottles with filtered tap water, save money, and drink what is best for your health.

The wise consumer chooses tap water over sweet drinks and bottled water.

Dr. Warren S. Guy, DDS, PhD
Dr. Guy practices pediatric dentistry in Lufkin. In the past, he has taught Biochemistry and nutrition at the university level and worked as a water treatment chemist.



FLOOD SAFETY

Helpful hints to remember during a flooding situation.

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company or City emergency management office.

For information regarding floodplains, ways to stop flooding, prevent flooding problems or flood insurance, contact (936) 633-0414. This is a free service to all citizens.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our water is obtained from GROUND WATER sources. It comes from the aquifer: CARRIZO SAND. TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water 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 data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us (936) 633-0288.

Unregulated Contaminants

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum Contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year	Contaminant	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Source of Contaminant
2006	Chloroform (ppb)	17.8	17.8	17.8	Disinfection Byproduct
2006	Bromodichloromethane	14.2	14.2	14.2	Disinfection Byproduct
2006	Dibromochloromethane	8.7	8.7	8.7	Disinfection Byproduct

Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) 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.

Year	Constituent	Avg	Min.	Max.	Secondary Limit	Source of Contaminant
2005	Bicarbonate (ppm)	265	265	265	NA	Corrosion of carbonate rocks i.e. limestone
2005	Chloride (ppm)	32	32	32	300	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2002	Iron (ppb)	23	23	23	300	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2005	pH	7.7	7.7	7.7	7	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2002	Sodium (ppm)	180	180	180	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2005	Sulfate (ppm)	60	60	60	300	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2005	Total Alkalinity (ppm) CaCO ₃	217	217	217	NA	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2005	Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	377	377	377	1,000	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2002	Zinc (ppb)	30	30	30	5	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.

About the Following Information:

The data that follows is a list of 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. Please review the definitions and abbreviations to aid you in understanding the analytical results.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. *MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) *The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.*

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) 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 contamination.

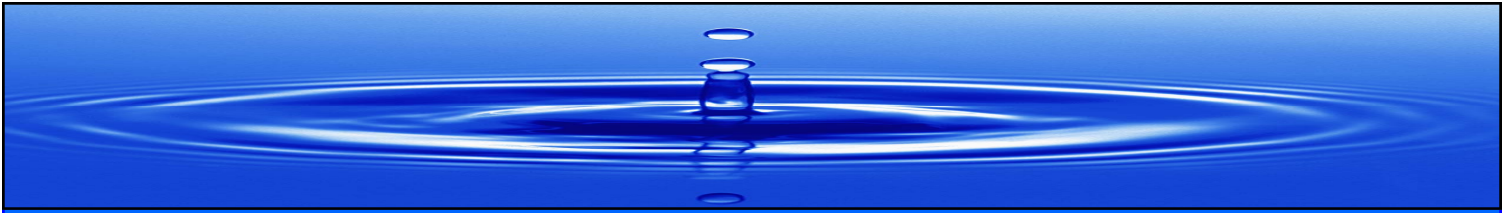
Treatment Technique (TT)
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL)
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, *triggers treatment or other requirements* which a water system must follow.

ABBREVIATIONS

- NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- MFL** Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/L** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- ppt** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- ppq** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

WATER SOURCES: 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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, 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: microbes, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.



CITY OF LUFKIN DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT FOR 2006

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
2002	Barium	0.01	0.01	0.01	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
2005	Fluoride	0.3	0.3	0.3	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2005	Nitrate	0.04	0.04	0.04	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
2005	Chlorine Residual, Free	2.4	0.6	5	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Source of Contamination
2006	Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	20.1	20.1	20.1	60	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection
2006	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	42.6	42.6	42.6	80	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection

Lead and Copper—Regulated at the Customer's Tap

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Source of Contaminant
2003	Lead (ppb)	2.5	1	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Copper (ppm)	0.776	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from

Total Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA.
Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.



City of Lufkin
Public Works
PO Drawer 190
Lufkin, Texas 75902-0190

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S.
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Permit No. 50

The Water We Drink: 2006 Annual Water Quality Report

City of Lufkin Public Works



- Meets Drinking Water Standards
- Is Continually Treated
- No Bacteriological Violations
- Is Safe To Drink

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (936) 633-0458—para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.