

### Why Water Quality is Important to You



*Please recycle your empty  
bottles.*

### **Bottled Water**

*This is the second in a two part series on bottled water.*

There are many facts to consider when you're making the decision to drink bottled water, including health issues, cost, and the environment.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water quality, while the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulate your tap water. Tap water regulations are stricter than the FDA regulations for bottled water. While bottled water is convenient and generally does not have taste and odor issues that chlorine and minerals can sometimes create in tap water, it is not necessarily "healthier" than tap water.

Tap water can provide essential minerals like calcium and trace elements like iron that the human body needs to stay healthy. Bottled water is usually treated whether the source is a municipal water utility or a spring, to remove all chemicals and minerals.

Tap water is consistently less expensive per gallon than bottled water. Tucson Water customers generally pay less than ¼ cent per gallon of tap water, while bottled water sold in Tucson may cost anywhere from 25 cents per gallon to more than \$8 per gallon.

Finally, what you do with the empty bottles can have a significant affect on our environment. If you drink bottled water, please recycle your empties, so that the plastic can be reused. This not only reduces the burden on our landfills, but ensures that the resources used to make the bottle are not "wasted" on a one-time use item.

For more information on bottled water visit these websites:

NRDC at [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/nbw.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/nbw.asp).

International Bottled Water Association at [www.bottledwater.org](http://www.bottledwater.org)

Food and Drug Administration, Bottled Water Rules at  
[www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/botwatr.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/botwatr.html)

For more information on your tap water contact your local water provider.

If you are a Tucson Water customer you can contact us at

[www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water) or call 791-5945, 791-4331 or 791-5080 x1372.

# EMPACT

**EMPACT News - Water Info Now** is published by the EMPACT Team led by Tucson Water and provides up-to-date information about water quality in the greater Tucson area. To be added to the mailing list, please call 791-5080, ext. 1372 or email [DQuinta1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:DQuinta1@ci.tucson.az.us).

*Esta información está disponible en español. Por favor llame al 791-5080, ext. 1372.*

For more information about the EMPACT program for Tucson's water quality reporting, visit the Tucson Water web site at [www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water). For more information about the USEPA's EMPACT programs nationwide, visit the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/empact](http://www.epa.gov/empact).

## Partner in focus

The keys to the EMPACT project are its community focus and the circle of partners that have joined Tucson Water in developing water quality information and communicating about it to citizens. Each issue of EMPACT News will feature one of the project partners.



*Pima County Wastewater Management staff attends a variety of community activities to share their messages of water conservation and pollution controls.*

## Water Quality in the News

# Pima County Wastewater Management Department (PCWWM)

The Pima County Wastewater Management Department manages and operates water pollution control and solid waste programs in Pima County. The mission of the Wastewater Management Department is to protect the public health and the environment through the safe delivery, treatment and reuse of wastewater.

The department serves the metropolitan Tucson area through two wastewater treatment facilities. Outlying county residents are served using eight smaller treatment facilities. The facilities are operated by the department under state and federal environmental laws administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

“A growing element of our operation has become education and community outreach. Through programs like EMPACT and our own ‘Slow the Flow’ and ‘Wipe Out Grease!’ programs, we are partnering with the community in order to create a cleaner and more environmentally friendly community for all residents,” said Director Kathleen M. Chavez.

Wastewater Management does not depend on taxes to support its operating costs. It is an enterprise fund, generating revenue from sewer fees charged for providing sewerage service to its customers.

The Pima County Wastewater Management Department operates as a regulated utility responsible to the Pima County Board of Supervisors and to the citizens of Pima County. For information call 740-6500, or go to our website [www.wwm.co.pima.az.us](http://www.wwm.co.pima.az.us)

## Is My Drinking Water in Danger?

### NO GASOLINE CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN FOUND IN TUCSON'S DRINKING WATER

Tucson Water immediately took measures to protect our drinking water supply in the area of this summer's gas pipeline break. On July 30, 2003, parts of a 50-year old, 8-inch, high-pressure gasoline pipeline operated by Kinder Morgan, Inc. ruptured in a neighborhood just north of Grant Road and east of Silverbell Road. The rupture flooded portions of some streets and the Silvercrock wash.

Extensive testing showed that none of the gasoline had entered the drinking water system. To ensure the safety of our drinking water supply, the water mains in the area were isolated from the rest of the system and then tested to see if any water contamination had occurred. All test results came back completely free from gasoline and clearly shows that none of the gasoline had entered our drinking water system.



Tucson Water conducts weekly tests at the drinking water well closest to the rupture (approximately two miles away), at an out of service well in the vicinity of other sections of the pipeline, and at a monitor well (not a drinking water source) about 850 feet away from the contaminated site. Tests on the monitor well have found no gasoline contamination. Tucson Water will continue to monitor wells near the pipeline for gasoline products on a weekly basis.

Tucson Water routinely performs testing at more than 250 sampling sites in the drinking water system. Our monitoring procedures include testing for organic carbon that would detect the presence of gasoline components. None have been found. These negative results are added evidence that no contamination from the Kinder Morgan pipeline has entered the Tucson Water drinking water system.

## Tucson Water's EMPACT Community Partners

These organizations have joined with Tucson Water in the EMPACT Program to develop and communicate water quality information to the residents of Tucson.

- Tucson Unified School District
- U. of A., Department of Soil, Water & Environmental Science
- U. of A., Water Resources Research Center
- U. of A., Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center
- U. of A., National Science Foundation, Water Quality Center
- Pima County Health Department
- Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Pima County Wastewater Management Department**
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Tucson-Pima Public Library
- City of Tucson Department of Neighborhood Resources



## Tucson Water Tracks Water Quality

What essential product that you rely on every day is tested for purity an average of every 60 seconds, 24 hours a day? Your drinking water!

The USEPA requires that all public water utilities issue a drinking water quality report to their customers every year as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is a single report that provides water quality data to you in an understandable manner on your drinking water. These reports are also known as Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR).

For a copy of the 2002 Annual Water Quality Report or CCR, call the utility's Public Information Office at 791-4331 or visit [www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water) and click on Water Quality.

