



During 2006,
Tucson Water ensured
that your drinking water
met all drinking
water standards

This Annual Water Quality Report provides information on your drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires that all drinking water suppliers provide a water quality report to their customers on an annual basis. This report also serves as a reference with important information on the quality of water and with contacts and phone numbers you may need from time to time.

2006 Annual Water Quality Report
Water Quality Management Division



Tucson Water
P.O.Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

WERE THERE ANY CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Tucson Water regularly samples the drinking water that is delivered to you. Much of this testing is required by drinking water regulations. In addition to this required monitoring, Tucson Water conducts discretionary monitoring in order to provide both Tucson Water staff and customers with additional water quality information.

The Detected Contaminants Table below lists all contaminants that were detected in the required drinking water monitoring. For more information, please see the table and the specific explanations, which follow the table.

In most cases, the minimum detectable level of a contaminant is well below the USEPA regulatory limit for that contaminant. To compare the detected amount with the amount allowed by the USEPA, refer to the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) column in the table. The vast majority of regulated contaminants were not detectable in drinking water delivered by Tucson Water. The non-detected results were not included in the table. For a complete list of all USEPA regulated contaminants contact the USEPA at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the USEPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant	Analysis Date	Maximum Result	Range	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources
Inorganics						
Barium	2004	0.031 ppm	0.031 - 0.031 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Natural deposits
Fluoride	2006	0.14 ppm	0.13 - 0.14 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Natural deposits
Nitrate (as N)	2006	0.4 ppm	0.31 - 0.4 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Natural deposits; septic tanks; agriculture; sewage
Radiochemicals						
Adjusted Gross Alpha	2005	0.9 pCi/L	0.9 - 0.9 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Natural Deposits
Uranium	2004	1.5 ppb	<1.33 - 1.5 ppb	30 ppb	0 ppb	Natural Deposits
Trihalomethane (THMs)						
Bromodichloromethane	2006	1.3 ppb	<0.5 - 1.3 ppb		0 ppb	By-product of chlorination
Bromoform	2006	0.7 ppb	<0.5 - 0.7 ppb		0 ppb	By-product of chlorination
Chloroform	2006	0.6 ppb	<0.5 - 0.6 ppb		0 ppb	By-product of chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane	2006	1.9 ppb	<0.5 - 1.9 ppb		0.06 ppb	By-product of chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	2006	4.5 ppb	<0.5 - 4.5 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of chlorination
Contaminant	Analysis Date	# of Samples Above the Action Level	90 th Percentile Value	Action Level	MCLG	Major Sources
Lead and Copper in Standing Water Samples						
Lead	2005	None	3.6 ppb	15 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	2005	None	0.11 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)						
Contaminant	Annual Running Average	Monthly Average Chlorine Range	MRDL	MCLG	Major Sources of Contaminant	
Chlorine	0.80 ppm	0.13 - 1.18 ppm	4 ppm	4 ppm	Disinfection additive used to control microbes	

DRINKING WATER TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). 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. If a contaminant is believed to cause health concerns in humans, then the MCL is set as close as practical to zero and at an acceptable level of risk. Generally, the maximum acceptable risk of cancer is 1 in 10,000 with 70 years of exposure.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG). 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). 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.

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 contaminants.

Parts Per Billion (ppb). Some constituents in water are measured in very small units. Organic compounds such as trihalomethanes are monitored by Tucson Water in terms of parts per billion (or micrograms per liter). To help you visualize how very small this unit is, we offer the following illustrations. One part per billion equals: One second of time in 31.7 years or the first 16 inches of a trip to the moon.

Parts Per Million (ppm). Many dissolved minerals such as sodium and calcium are monitored by Tucson Water in terms of parts per million (or milligrams per liter). To help you visualize how very small this unit is, we offer the following illustrations. One part per million equals: 2 ounces of water in a typical 15,000 gallon backyard swimming pool or one second of time in 11.6 days.

Picocurie Per Liter (pCi/L). The quantity of radioactive material in one liter which produces 2.22 nuclear disintegrations per minute.

INFORMATION ON DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Barium occurs naturally at very low concentrations in our groundwater.

Fluoride is an important naturally-occurring mineral that helps to form healthy teeth and bones. A concentration of 1 ppm is considered optimum. At concentrations above 2 ppm, fluoride can cause mild discoloration of teeth, and exposure at above the MCL of 4 ppm can cause both severe discoloration of teeth and over many years of exposure, bone disease.

Nitrate is a form of nitrogen and an important plant nutrient. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Tucson water performs extra monitoring on wells high in nitrate for extra assurance that action can be taken when approaching the MCL.

Adjusted Gross Alpha is a measure of radioactivity due to naturally occurring minerals in groundwater. The MCL for gross alpha radioactivity is set at 15 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). This excludes the radioactivity contributed by either radon or uranium.

Uranium is a heavy metal, which is highly toxic and radioactive. The USEPA has set a new standard of 30 ppb for uranium, which water systems must have met since December 2003.

TTHMs are formed when chlorine combines with naturally-occurring material in water. Because the level of organic matter in our groundwater is extremely low, these compounds are found at very low concentrations.

Lead and Copper are naturally occurring metals, which are generally found at very low levels in some waters. However, these levels can increase when water contacts plumbing materials containing lead pipe, lead soldered copper tubing, or brass. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Concerned customers can take an extra precaution to protect children from lead leached from new brass faucets by running the water for a few seconds and using the water for something other than drinking. This is especially important if the water has been

sitting in the pipes for a few hours or more. These same precautions also help to give you a better-tasting water. An expanded lead and copper monitoring was conducted in 2004. The results showed that 2 samples out of 55 collected exceeded the 15 ppb action level for lead and 2 out of the 55 samples exceeded the 1.3 ppm action level for copper. These monitoring results were reported to Thunderhead customers in a letter dated September 24, 2004. The expanded monitoring results also showed that the water supplied by the Thunderhead System wells presented a risk of excessive lead and copper in water in contact with pipes for six or more hours at least for some homes. Tucson Water decided that this risk could be reduced significantly by aerating the water to remove excess carbon dioxide from the water. Aeration increases the pH of the water and reduces the potential for corrosion. This plan to reduce lead and copper uptake was approved by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the aeration system was designed. This treatment system started operation in June 2005. We completed a round of lead and copper monitoring during August of 2005. The results were substantially lower than the pre-treatment period, with the 90th percentile of 3.6 ppb, considerably lower than 15 ppb Action Level. Monthly pH during 2006 has been at least 7.5 and higher, except in two occasions when the pH dropped to 6.8 due to equipment malfunction. The problem was immediately solved and the aeration system returned to normal.

Total Chlorine Residual Approximately 0.8 ppm of chlorine is maintained in the drinking water supply to provide assurance that water delivered to customers will remain free of microbiological contamination. This also ensures that the water meets microbiological drinking water standards from the time it is pumped from the ground until it reaches the customer's tap. Total Chlorine Residual is measured from sample stations where the bacteriological samples are collected monthly. The Total Annual Chlorine Residual is calculated using the monthly average chlorine for the past 12 months.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

While the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations are intended to protect consumers throughout their lifetime, some people may be more vulnerable to infections from drinking water than the general population. These "at-risk" populations include: immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and in some cases, elderly people and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline.

HOW IS MY DRINKING WATER TREATED?

The groundwater delivered by Tucson Water meets all drinking water standards without treatment. However, approximately 0.8 ppm of chlorine residual is maintained in the drinking water supply to provide assurance that water delivered to customers will remain free of microbiological contamination. This also ensures that the water meets microbiological drinking water standards from the time it is pumped from the ground until it reaches the customer's tap.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP): Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has completed a source water assessment of this System, which evaluates the risk of contamination from human activities. The water source for this system is categorized as "low risk of contamination from human activities".

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

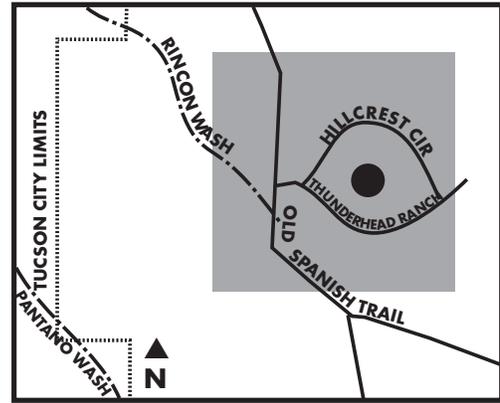
All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Tucson's groundwater contains dissolved minerals and organic compounds, which have been leached from rocks, sediments, and plant minerals through which the water travels. One would expect to find beneficial minerals such as calcium and magnesium, harmless minerals such as chloride, bicarbonate, and sulfate, and metals such as iron, copper, arsenic, and lead, which may be either beneficial or harmless at low concentrations, but harmful at high concentrations. In addition to these naturally occurring contaminants, groundwater may contain contaminants resulting from human, industrial, or domestic activities. For this reason, water utilities must currently monitor for approximately 90 regulated and 25 unregulated contaminants.

The following language is required by the USEPA to appear in this report, some of which may not be applicable to deep groundwater wells, the source of the this Water supply:

Contaminants that may be present in a source water can include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage, agricultural livestock, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA regulations 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. Bottled water may come from either a surface water source or groundwater source, and may be treated minimally or extensively. For information on the quality of your bottled water, contact the water bottling company.



THUNDERHEAD RANCH

Thunderhead Ranch is a small subdivision west of Old Spanish Trail and about one and a half miles south of Irvington Road. It has about 57 services supplying about 170 persons with water from two wells, G-006A and G-009A. G-009A is the primary well and has been operational since August 2003. This system was acquired by Tucson Water in 1997. An aeration system to elevate pH and thus control corrosion was designed and has been in operation since June of 2005.

WHOM DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on this Tucson Water report contact Mohsen Belyani with the Water Quality Management Division. Call 791-5252 or e-mail your questions to mohsen.belyani@tucsonaz.gov.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Tucson Water	
Public Information Office	791-4331
Tucson Water Quality Management Division	791-5252
Tucson Water Customer Service/Billing	791-3242
Tucson Water 24 Hour Emergency	791-4133

Additional information is also available from the Tucson Water Website: www.tucsonaz.gov/water/

United States Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

USEPA Website: www.epa.gov/safewater/

City of Tucson TTY#: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.