

Conservation Corner

Facing A Long, Dry Winter

Area meteorologists are telling us not to expect much, if any, rain for the foreseeable future and that our winter could be the driest in centuries. Their prediction reminds us that we live in a desert where water is precious and every drop counts. A rainless few months are also a good reminder that water conservation is important year round, not just during the summer. Here are a few tips that will reduce your water use and reduce your water bill while helping us protect our water resources and our environment.

- **Find and repair leaks.**

About 20% of all toilets leak and, along with dripping faucets, can waste as much as 100 gallons of water a day.

- **Change to water saving fixtures.**

Low-flow showerheads and faucets can cut your water use at that fixture by 50%. A low water use toilet can save almost 5,000 gallons of water a year.

- **Change your water use habits.**

Wash only full loads in your dish and clothes washers. Shut off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving (this can save as much as 20 gallons).

For more water saving ideas, how-to information, or assistance, visit Tucson Water on the Web at www.tucsonaz.gov/water or call us - 791-4331.

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

How Your Water Gets to You

Clean and Safe – The Water Quality Division

Turn on the tap in your home or business . . . and water comes out. Your water is safe, clean, and always there when you need it. That doesn't just happen. This month we start a new series of articles about how Tucson Water makes sure each of our 680,000 customers can depend on their water supply – every hour of every day.

Making sure your water is safe is the job of Tucson Water's Water Quality Division and its water quality technicians, chemists, and other professionals. Their job is to ensure our water meets the highest standards of quality and all federal drinking water regulations. Here's how they do it.

Sampling

Technicians collect water samples daily across the metropolitan area at locations including wells, water mains, reservoirs, and customer taps. There are more than 250 different sampling sites all designed to make sure that the

Water 101 continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to

TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Clean and Safe – The Water Quality Division

Water 101 *continued from front*



technicians obtain accurate water samples. These samples are taken to Tucson Water's Water Quality Laboratory where they are checked, officially logged in, and then given to the chemists.

Analysis

Our chemists analyze about

12,000 water samples each year, performing more than 400,000 tests. The number of reported test results varies from year to year depending on federal testing requirements. For example, the Water Quality Lab produced 8,969 results in 2003 and 7,871 in 2004.



Review and Reporting

Laboratory supervisors review all this work and file regular reports on all water testing with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. This state agency is responsible for enforcing all federal drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



The lab tests for more than 150 different compounds including bacteria and organic and inorganic compounds. You can find a list and the levels of those compounds that have been found in our drinking water system in Tucson Water's Annual Water Quality Report to customers.

For more information about your water quality, please call Tucson Water at 791-4331 or visit our Web site - www.tucsonaz.gov/water.

Federal Drinking Water Standards Protect All of Us

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets two types of standards to ensure all drinking water delivered by utilities in the U.S. is safe.

Primary standards are health based and regulate compounds in water that could have health effects, such as harmful microorganisms, pesticides, or heavy metals. These standards are based on research done by hospitals, universities, and health organizations across the country and extensive study by USEPA. Tucson Water, and all water utilities in the country, must by law comply with these primary standards.

Secondary drinking water standards are guidelines only and focus on the characteristics of water such as how it tastes and the amount of minerals in it. Our water meets most of these secondary standards, although the source of the water often determines how the water measures up to these standards.



On the Water Front

This month we begin a series of articles in this newsletter about how we serve you. We're not doing this to "pat ourselves on the back" but rather because so many of you have asked us questions about what we do each day to make sure you have water at your tap. We want you to know that you can count on us to have that water there when you need it, and that it always will be clean and safe.

Keeping your water clean and safe - it's a top priority at Tucson Water and a responsibility we take very seriously.

Our Water Quality lab is a state-of-the-art facility and the staff is made up of highly trained professionals who are well aware of how important their jobs are to all our customers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and the Arizona Department of Health Services evaluate the lab and check our quality control on a regular basis.

We report the results of all water testing to the Department of Environmental Quality and we report to you. Each month in this newsletter you'll find a water quality report on the results of our testing for sodium, mineral content, and bacteria and other constituents that customers have told us they are

most interested in seeing each month. You can also get timely water quality information on our Web site (www.tucsonaz.gov/water).

Even more comprehensive information is available each year when we print and mail a water quality annual report to all of our customers and publish the report on our web site. USEPA requires every water utility in the nation to provide this information

Keeping your water clean and safe is one of our most essential jobs – as is sharing the results with you. It's important to us that you have as much information as you want about the quality of your water and understand the critical role played by the Water Quality Division in the process of delivering water to you and your family.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report - January 2005

55	Sodium (mg/L)
337.1	Mineral Content (mg/L)
154	Hardness (mg/L)
7.91	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.71	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
85.3	Temp (deg F)

Visit the Tucson Water Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Your Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

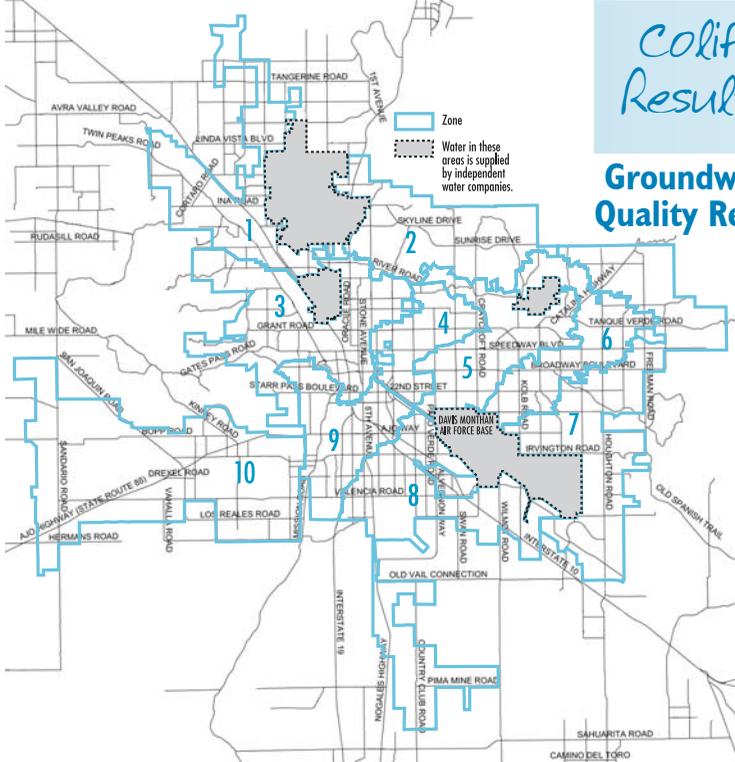
Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.



* Values for December 2005

Groundwater Quality Report - November 2005

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)	Average Range	53 38-75	52 50-56	50 32-57	47 30-55	44 28-54	46 30-54	40 25-53	42 39-46	43 36-49	42 36-54	46 25-75
Mineral Content (mg/L)	Average Range	417 253-598	354 337-367	362 210-418	330 194-374	314 164-368	317 214-368	273 180-353	365 304-447	324 209-440	257 209-374	329 164-598
Hardness (mg/L)	Average Range	232 193-285	145 139-153	150 81-193	128 66-163	130 68-174	138 94-165	136 104-159	184 142-245	137 66-249	90 70-149	142 66-285
pH (S.U.)	Average Range	7.7 7.4-8.1	8.0 7.8-8.2	7.9 7.5-8.1	7.9 7.8-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.9 7.4-8.2	7.9 7.7-8.1	7.6 7.5-7.9	7.8 7.5-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.0	7.9 7.4-8.2
Temperature (deg F)	Average Range	75.9 71.2-78.4	81.5 76.8-84.7	78.3 72.7-81.7	79.7 73.4-84.6	79.3 74.3-83.7	79.5 73.2-83.7	78.4 68.9-82.4	78.1 67.8-82.9	80.6 76.6-85.3	80.4 72.5-83.8	79.3 67.8-85.3



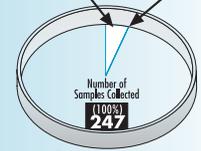
Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - November 2005

Groundwater Quality Report

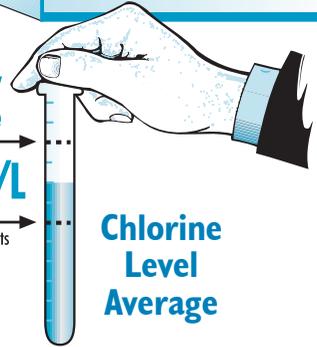


EPA Standard for Positive Samples
5%

Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform
0.0%



Monthly Average
0.8 mg/L
247 Sample Points



"mg/L" means milligrams per liter;
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water's Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.