

City of Sherman

(903) 892-7258

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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

Where does my water come from?

The City of Sherman has two different sources of water, well (ground) water and lake (surface) water. Ground water comes from Sherman's 27 wells in the Woodbine and Trinity aquifers. No treatment is necessary for the ground water except for the addition of chlorine to disinfect the water. Surface water comes from Lake Texoma and is treated at the Sherman Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The WTP provides multi-barrier protection against microbial contaminants through conventional treatment. The conventional treatment process consists of preoxidation, rapid mixing, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. In the preoxidation basin, suspended particles are oxidized to facilitate removal. Coagulants are then added to encourage suspended particles in the water to clump together so they become heavy enough to settle to the bottom of the sedimentation basin. These particles are allowed to settle for approximately four hours. After the sedimentation process, the water is filtered using granular activated carbon and sand to remove remaining suspended particles as well as taste and odor. After conventional treatment, the filtered water is demineralized to remove dissolved salts. Also, the demineralization process reduces the hardness of the water. Once the lake water has been treated, it is disinfected and pumped to customers.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed an assessment of our source water; and the 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 sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact us at (903) 892-7258.

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.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 (800/426-4791). The tables in the report show all of the regulated contaminants that were detected for the 2005 and 2008 calendar years. TCEQ continuously monitors our drinking water to ensure that safe water is delivered to your home.

Contact Information

Contacting the City of Sherman:

- Public participation opportunities? You are invited to attend City Council Meetings. Please call the City Clerk's Office at (903) 892-7206 for more information.
- Questions regarding your water bill? Please call (903) 892-7237, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.
- Questions about this report? Please call (903) 892-7258, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving – 3 to 5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During this compliance period, we did not correctly monitor and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during the month of June 2008.

The City of Sherman collected more than the required minimum number of coliform samples; however, the regulations regarding the number of required samples were ambiguous and the regulations were ultimately interpreted so as to not allow six of the collected samples to be counted as routine samples.

Procedures have been modified to clarify how routine samples are counted each month; and the number of samples collected has been increased.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. CITY OF SHERMAN is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. All water systems are required by EPA to report the language below starting with the 2009 CCR to be delivered to bill-paying customers and non bill-paying consumers by July of 2010. The following information is provided at this time as a courtesy:

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Inorganic Contaminants	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Typical Source
Barium (ppm)	0.013	0.006	0.035	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	0.5	0	3.7	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	0.86	0.54	1.12	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	0.07	0	0.22	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2.7	0	9.9	50	50	ppb	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Maximum Disinfectant Level	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Units of Measure	Source of Chemical
Chlorine (Free Chlorine Ground Water Only)	1.716	1.507	2.639	4	<4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Chloramines (Total Chlorine Surface Water Only)	2.582	1.771	2.972	4	<4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Disinfection Byproducts	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL		Units of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	11.7	0	23.3	60		ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	52.5	6.9	93.3	80		ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Initial System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL		Units of Measure	Source of Chemical
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	13.2	0	26.3	NA		ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	54.6	8.4	99.9	NA		ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

This evaluation is sampling required by EPA to determine the range of total trihalomethane and haloacetic acid in the system for future regulations. The samples are not used for compliance, and may have been collected under non-standard conditions. EPA also requires the data to be reported here.

Unregulated Contaminants	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Typical Source
Chloroform	10.44	10.44	10.44	NA	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform	28.9	28.9	28.9	NA	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	19.15	19.15	19.15	NA	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	38.58	38.58	38.58	NA	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.							
Lead and Copper	90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level		Action Level		Units of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Lead	1.3	0		15		ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits: leaching from wood preservatives
Copper	0.149	0		1.3		ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits: leaching from wood preservatives
Turbidity	Highest Single management	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits		Turbidity Limits		Units of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Turbidity	0.30	100		0.3		NTU	Soil runoff.
Turbidity as no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, and diarrhea and associated headaches.							
Total Organic Carbon	Average Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Source Water	4.34	3.87	4.91	NA	NA	ppb	Naturally present in the environment
Drinking Water	2.26	1.77	2.87	NA	NA	ppb	Naturally present in the environment
Removal Ratio	52	43	74	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total organic carbon (TOC) no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.							
Total Coliform	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples		MCL	MCLG		Units of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	2%		*	NA		Presence	Naturally present in the environment
* Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TEST FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are harder than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.							

Unit Descriptions	Definition
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples/yr	The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a TT under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: 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.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPH	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:
DeWayne Sutherland
Water Systems Superintendent
City of Sherman
P. O. Box 1106
Sherman, TX 75091-1106
(903) 892-7258
(903) 868-2477
dewaynes@ci.sherman.tx.us
http://www.cityofsherman.org/index.asp