



2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Belton is pleased to present the 2014 Annual Water Quality Report as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.



Where do we get our
drinking water?

What is in my water?

How can I protect our
water systems?

Are we in a Drought
Stage?

Get updated on
Trash, Recycling, and
Hazardous Waste
Disposal

CITY OF BELTON
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

(254) 933-5823

PWS ID No. TX0140002

OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. 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. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.



WHERE DO WE GET OUR DRINKING WATER?

The source of drinking water used by the City of Belton is Purchased Surface Water. The City purchases from Bell County Water Control and Improvement District #1 (BCWCID #1) utilizing Lake Belton and the Central Texas Water Supply Corporation (CTWSC) treated water from Stillhouse Hollow Lake, all located within Bell County.

The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources. The report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The system(s) from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact the City of Belton Public Works Department at (254) 933-5823.

WHAT THE EPA SAYS ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

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 the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

Do I need to take special precautions?

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. The City of Belton 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 two 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>.

What contaminants may be found in our Source Water?

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

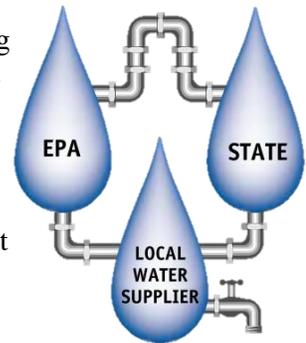
Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact us at (254) 933-5823.

WATER QUALITY

EPA sets regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in drinking water. They also define where and how often samples for each substance must be collected and how they must be analyzed. The table below shows the substances found in compliance monitoring at customer taps throughout the distribution system.

What substances are tested for in our drinking water?

The City of Belton's drinking water is routinely monitored for contaminants according to Federal and State laws. Your drinking water is tested for over 90 different contaminants. The State of Texas requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. If no data is presented for a contaminant, it means it was not detected.



Important Abbreviations and Terms when reviewing Water Quality Data

BCWCID: Bell County Water Control and Improvement District #1

CTWSC: Central Texas Water Supply Corporation

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 or 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 or 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 containments.

MFL: million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
mrem/year: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NA: Not applicable
ND: Not detectable
NTU: nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water (µg/L)
ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water (mg/L)
ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

2014 Regulated Contaminants Test Results

Inorganic Contaminants

Year	Violation	Contaminant	Reporting	Avg Level	Min Level	Max Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2014	No	Barium	BCWCID CTWSC	0.05 0.042	0.05 0.0399	0.05 0.044	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2014	No	Fluoride	BCWCID CTWSC	0.22 0.23	0.21 0.22	0.22 0.24	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2014	No	*Nitrate	BCWCID CTWSC City of Belton	0.22 0.117 0.32	0.17 0.09 0.32	0.29 0.16 0.32	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

***Nitrate Advisory – 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. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.**

Radioactive Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Reporting	Max Level	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
06/18/2009	Beta/photon emitters	BCWCID	5.5	4.0 - 5.5	0	4	mrem/yr	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides

Year	Contaminant	Reporting	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2014	Atrazine	BCWCID CTWSC	0.17 0.20	0.15 0.15	0.20 0.26	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
2014	Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	BCWCID CTWSC	<0.60 ND	<0.60 ND	<0.60 ND	6	0	ppb	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Reporting	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2014	Chloramines	City of Belton	1.703	1.20	3.40	4.0	4.0	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection Byproducts (Regulated Contaminants)

Year	Contaminant	Reporting	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2014	Total Haloacetic Acids	City of Belton	7.5	ND	15.4	60	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2014	Total Trihalomethanes	City of Belton	21.5	15.3	29.6	80	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper

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. The City of Belton 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 two 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>.

Year	Contaminant	Reporting	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2013	Lead	City of Belton	3.86	1*	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2013	Copper	City of Belton	0.0631	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

*One sample exceeded the action level but there was no violation in the 2013 CCR calendar year.

Turbidity

Turbidity has 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, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles and is an indicator of water quality.

Year	Contaminant	Reporting	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2014	Turbidity	BCWCID CTWSC	0.27 0.80	100 96.8	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff

Reportable Constituents (Not Regulated)

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year or Range	Constituent	Reporting	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2014	Sodium	BCWCID CTWSC	13.53 48.3	13.5 45.2	13.6 51.4	NA	mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; by-products of oil field activity

Total Organic Carbon

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products in excess of the maximum containment level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

Year	Contaminant	Reporting	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2014	Raw Water	BCWCID	10.91	4.45	58.20	mg/L	Naturally present in the environment
2014	Drinking Water	BCWCID	4.03	0.00	4.23	mg/L	Naturally present in the environment

Total Coliform Bacteria

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria are hardier than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Maximum Total Coliform Contaminant Goal	Reporting	Total Coliform Bacteria MCL	Highest Number of Total Coliform Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Samples	Violation	Source of Contamination
0	City of Belton	1/month*	0; There were no TC detections for this system in this CCR period	0*	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

*For systems which collect fewer than 40 routine distribution samples per month, the MCL is defined as when more than one sample is coliform positive. MCL for Fecal Coliform and E. Coli: a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants as required by the Third Unregulated Contaminates Monitoring Rule for Assessment Monitoring. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated containment monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in the drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. All of the following contaminants were sampled on December 17, 2014 and are reported by the City of Belton. The City of Belton will participate in three additional UCMR3 sampling events during calendar year 2015.

Sample Location in Water System*	Contaminant	Result (µg/L)	Minimum Reporting Level (µg/L)	Use or Environmental Source
Entry Point Max. Res. Time	Molybdenum	2.2 2.0	1	Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide used as a chemical reagent
Entry Point Max. Res. Time	Strontium	360 340	0.3	Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions
Entry Point Max. Res. Time	Vanadium	1.9 1.7	0.2	Naturally-occurring elemental metal; used as vanadium pentoxide which is a chemical intermediate and a catalyst

*'Max. Res. Time' is an abbreviation for the point of maximum chlorine residual time in the distribution system.

Unregulated contaminants sampled for in the December UCMR3 sample collection but not detected. (UCMR3 Minimum

Reporting Level in parentheses in µg/L)

Chromium-Total (0.2)	1,3-butadiene (0.1)	perfluoroheptanoic acid-PFHpA (0.01)
Cobalt (1)	Bromochloromethane (0.06)	perfluorohexanesulfonic acid-PFHxS (0.03)
Chromium-6 (0.03)	Bromomethane (0.2)	perfluorononanoic acid-PFNA (0.02)
Chlorate (20)	Chlorodifluoromethane (0.08)	perfluorooctanoic acid-PFOA (0.02)
1,4-dioxane (0.07)	Chloromethane (0.2)	perfluorooctanesulfonic acid-PFOS (0.04)
1,1-dichloroethane (0.03)	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid-PFBS (0.09)	
1,2,3-trichloropropane (0.03)		

Cryptosporidium Monitoring Information

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen that may be found in water contaminated by feces. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, it cannot guarantee 100 percent removal nor can the testing methods determine if the organisms are alive and capable of causing cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection with nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps that may occur after ingestion of contaminated water. BCWCID #1 completed its compliance schedule meeting the requirements of the Long Term 2 (LT2) Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Monitoring for cryptosporidium and E. Coli began in October 2006 and ended in September 2008. After 48 samples, no microbial pathogens were found.

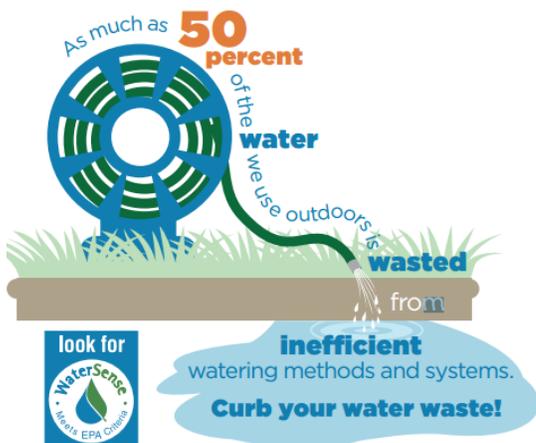
WATER LOSS AUDIT

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January 2014 through December 2014, the City's water loss percentage was an estimated 15.93% or 162,242,667 gallons. Water losses calculated in the Water Conservation Plan Annual Report include an estimate of water consumed but not measured, physical losses from the distribution system prior to reaching the customer destination, and unreported losses not known or qualified. Typical water losses for distribution systems are 5% to 20%. The City of Belton has an ongoing program to reduce water losses. For more information on the water loss audit, please contact us at (254) 933-5823.

WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

Drought Response

The City of Belton is currently under Stage 1 of the City's Drought Response Plan. Stage 1 is 'mild water shortage conditions' with the goal of citizens voluntarily reducing water usage. The drought response stage was initiated by the low levels in Lake Belton since November 2012. When Lake Belton's water elevation drops below elevation 587 feet, Belton is considered to have mild water shortage conditions and voluntary conservation measures are requested. The conservation measures include minimizing or discontinuing non-essential water use and limiting landscape irrigation to twice a week. Although current drought conditions have improved, the City is remaining under Stage 1 drought conditions to encourage water conservation.



Water Conservation

Lawn Care

Over-watering a lawn and adjacent paved areas not only consumes unnecessary water, but also wastes energy, since it takes energy to produce and distribute clean water to our homes. Citizens can practice water conservation by limiting landscape irrigation to between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. on designated days.

Sundays and Thursdays for addresses ending in an odd number.
Saturdays and Wednesdays for addresses ending in an even number.

Consider planting native plants, which require less care and water, and apply mulch around scrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation.

Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with seasonal weather conditions.

Appliances

According to the EPA, if all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water and more than \$18 billion dollars per year! For instance, the average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load, and is the second largest water user in your home, second to toilets. High-efficiency washing machines use 35 to 50 percent less water, as well as 50 percent less energy per load. If you are in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer, consider buying an efficient, water-saving ENERGY STAR® model to reduce water and energy use. To save more water, look for a clothes washer with a low water factor.



Faucets and Showerheads

Faucets account for more than 15 percent of indoor household water use which is more than 1 trillion gallons of water across the United States each year. Water Sense is a program sponsored by the EPA and have identified high-performance, water-efficient appliances, fixtures, water systems, and accessories that reduce water use in the home and help preserve the nation's water resources.



If you are not in the market for a new faucet, consider replacing the aerator in your older faucet with a more efficient one. The aerator-the screw-on tip of the faucet-ultimately determines the maximum flow rate of a faucet. Aerators are inexpensive to replace and are an effective water-efficiency measure.

Also keep in mind that you can significantly reduce water use and your water bill by simply repairing leaks in fixtures-toilets, faucets, and showerheads-or pipes.

Water Protection

When it Rains, it Drains

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, creek, or river. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for our drinking water supply, swimming, and fishing. **Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.**

By practicing healthy household habits, residents can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids out of our stormwater. Here are 10 ways you can prevent stormwater runoff pollution.

An infographic with a blue background and a white house illustration at the top. It lists 10 ways to prevent stormwater runoff pollution, each preceded by a blue water drop icon.

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Trash Collection Tips

- Please have your Waste Management cart at the curb by 7:00 am for collection. Please use your Waste Management carts only, items placed in non – Waste Management carts cannot be serviced.
- Up to three additional items may be placed at the curb with your Waste Management cart. Additional items must be bagged, boxed, or bundled and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

Trash Collection Holiday Schedule

Trash collection observes the following holidays in 2015. If a scheduled collection day falls on a holiday or the days after, collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week. For example, Thursday waste collection customers will be serviced on Friday and Friday's customers will be serviced on Saturday.

Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2015
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26, 2015
Christmas Day – Friday, December 25, 2015

Recycling Tips

- Recycling collection days are every other Wednesday. To find your collection day, see the schedule map and calendar on our website at www.beltontexas.gov.
- Please place all recycling in your yellow cart. Items do not need to be sorted and can be placed in your cart together. Please do not bag your items, plastic bags are not recyclable and cannot be accepted.
- The following items are not recyclable: Styrofoam, soiled food containers (pizza boxes), plastic bags, electronics, ceramics or dishes, food waste/garbage, light bulbs, glass, and wire clothes hangers.



Brush Collection

- For residential customers only, brush pickup is included as part of City garbage service. To schedule brush pickup, please call (254) 933-5800 or request a pick-up online at www.beltontexas.gov.
- Brush piles must be free of all other trash and debris. No tires, garbage, treated lumber, furniture or anything except natural brush will be picked up.

Household Hazardous Waste

As part of the monthly fee for garbage service, Belton residential customers have access to home pickup of household hazardous waste such as batteries, paint, household chemicals and cleaners, television monitors, used motor oil, and sharps. To schedule a pickup call Waste Management at 1-800-449-7587 or visit www.wmatyourdoor.com.

CONTACT US

For more information regarding this report contact:

Mike Huber, P.E.
City of Belton
City Engineer/Director of Public Works
Phone: (254) 933-5823

En Español Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (254) 933-5800.

Public Participation Opportunities – City Council Meetings

Date: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Harris Center, 401 Alexander, Belton
To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), please contact us at (254) 933-5800.

City of Belton
P.O. Box 120
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