

USE LESS → SAVE MORE

Every

*ALL YEAR!*  
*ROUND!*

**DROP**  
counts

**in WACOTOWN**

2021 CITY OF WACO WATER QUALITY REPORT

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

City of Waco drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water requirements. The City of Waco Water Utility Services Department (Public Water System #1550008) is proud to maintain a **Superior** water quality rating from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provided our customers during 2021. The analysis was made by using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests. Our goal is that this information will help you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

The tables that follow (pp. 3-4) list all of the federally regulated and/or monitored contaminants that have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 different contaminants.

## Where Does Our Water Come From?

Waco's drinking water is 99% surface water with less than 1% coming from ground water sources. The primary source of drinking water for residents of the City of Waco and surrounding communities is Lake Waco, located within the City of Waco, with less than 1% coming from the Trinity Aquifer.

## Source Water Assessment and Protection

The TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and 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 detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts in our system, contact the City of Waco Water Quality Lab at (254) 750-1662.

## Special Notice

**You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised, 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 for infection. 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.**

## En Español

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al (254) 299-2489 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## Building for the Future

Since the Building Waco Capital Improvement Program (CIP) began, back in 2016, a great many water, wastewater, and Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewerage System (WMARSS) CIP projects have been completed, with many more still in the works. Each of these projects is an investment toward a bright future for Waco.

	Number of Projects	Total Dollar Amount
Completed	150	\$158.5 million
In Planning, Design, or Construction	99	\$100.7 million

## WacoWater.com

You can find current news, conservation tips and learn about any available opportunities for public participation and involvement, all on the Water Utility Services website: [wacowater.com](http://wacowater.com).

## WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL:

**Online at: [mywacowater.com](http://mywacowater.com)**

**At the City of Waco Water Office:**

425 Franklin Avenue, Waco, Texas 76701

Lobby: (Mon-Fri) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drive-Thru: (Mon-Fri) 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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**By phone: 299-CITY (2489)**

**At your Neighborhood HEB:**

9100 Woodway Dr., 1301 Wooded Acres Dr., 801 N. IH-35, 1821 S. Valley Mills Dr., 3801 N. 19th St.



# Water Conservation Tips

## Save Water, Save Money

### WATER SAVING TIPS:

- If rain is in the forecast, turn your sprinkler system off ahead of time.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, driveway, or patio.
- Water your lawn and outdoor plants in the morning or evening, when temperatures are cooler and there is less evaporation.
- Use a timer when watering to avoid forgetful over watering.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Taller grass helps soil hold more moisture.
- Collect rain water from your roof to water plants.
- Check pipes and faucets, indoors and out, for leaks on a regular basis.



### Did you know?

The original Lake Waco was constructed in 1929 and was much smaller than it is today. The modern Lake Waco was born after a new dam was built in 1962. It grew to its current size when it was enlarged again in 2003.

- Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under a running faucet.
- Defrost food in the refrigerator instead of under running water.
- Wash dishes and clothes only when loads are full.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Use water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- Shorten your showers by just a minute or two and save up to 150 gallons per month.



## Abbreviations

<b>Avg</b> -	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples
<b>MFL</b> -	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
<b>mrem</b> -	millirems (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
<b>NTU</b> -	Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)
<b>pCi/L</b> -	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>ppm</b> -	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L), or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
<b>ppb</b> -	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L), or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
<b>ppt</b> -	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
<b>ppq</b> -	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

## Definitions

**Action level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Level 1 Assessment** - A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found in the water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** - A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria were found in the water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - 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 (MCLG)** - Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of 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 contamination.

**Treatment technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Drinking Water Standards

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## Water Sources

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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 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 by-products 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

## 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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## Secondary Constituents

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, and 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 Waco Water Utility Services.

## Water Loss

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January - December 2021, the City of Waco water system lost an estimated 159,901,557 gallons of water. This is 1.8% of the total water system input volume.

Water loss from a system occurs, primarily, due to leaks and line breaks, customer meter inaccuracy, data handling errors and unauthorized usage.

If you have any questions about the water loss audit, you may call:  
(254) 299-CITY (2489).

## WACO WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

### Inorganic Contaminants

COLLECTION DATE OR YEAR	CONTAMINANT	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	MIN - MAX LEVELS	MCL/MCLG		UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
2021	Barium	0.0413	0.0372 - 0.0413	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2021	Cyanide	180	180 - 180	200	200	ppb	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
2021	Fluoride	0.6	0.58 - 0.61	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2021	Nitrate	0.25	0.21 - 0.25	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Residual Disinfectant Level

COLLECTION DATE OR YEAR	DISINFECTANT	AVG LEVEL	MIN - MAX LEVELS	MRDL/ MRDLG		UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
2021	Monochloramine	2.35	0.1 - 4.1	4.0	4.0	ppm	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Disinfection Byproducts

COLLECTION DATE OR YEAR	CONTAMINANT	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	MIN - MAX LEVELS	MCL/MCLG	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
2021	Bromate	3	0 - 8.92	10	0	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2021	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	17	6.2 - 22	60	No Goal	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	The value in the Highest Level Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.							
2021	Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	48	17.6 - 67.8	80	No Goal	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	The value in the Highest Level Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.							

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants

COLLECTION DATE OR YEAR	CONTAMINANT	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	MIN - MAX LEVELS	MCL/MCLG	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
2021	Atrazine	0.21	0.2 - 0.21	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

### Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

## WACO WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS (CONT)

### Radioactive Contaminants

COLLECTION DATE OR YEAR	CONTAMINANT	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	MIN - MAX LEVELS	MCL/MCLG	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
2017	Radium 226/228	1.5	1.5 - 1.5	5	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Lead and Copper

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The concentration of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

YEAR	CONTAMINANT	90TH PERCENTILE	SITES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	ACTION LEVEL	UNIT OF MEASURE	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
2021	Lead	1.4	1	0	15	ppb	No	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; leaching from wood preservatives</i>
2021	Copper	0.24	1	1.3	1.3	ppm	No	

### HEALTH 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. This water supply 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>.

### Turbidity

YEAR		LIMIT (TT)	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASURE	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
2021	Highest single measurement	1	0.26	NTU	No	<i>Soil Runoff</i>
2021	Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3	100%	NTU	No	<i>Soil Runoff</i>

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water caused by suspended particles. It is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of filtration and disinfectants.

### Coliform Bacteria

YEAR	CONTAMINANT	HIGHEST NUMBER OF POSITIVE SAMPLES	MCL/MCLG		VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
2021	Total Coliform Bacteria	2.1	5%	0%	No	<i>Naturally present in the environment</i>
2021	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli	0	0%	0%	No	<i>Naturally present in the environment</i>



# CITY OF WACO

Water Utility Services

P.O. Box 2570 • Waco, TX 76702-2570

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