

In 2015 the Main System produced an average of 428 million gallons of water every day: for the City of Houston: 87% from surface water treatment plants and 13% from groundwater plants. Surface water comes from the San Jacinto River through Lake Conroe and Lake Houston, and from the Trinity River, through Lake Livingston, and is treated at one of the system's three large surface water treatment plants. The main system also has more than 100 wells that produce groundwater from the Evangeline and Chicot Aquifers at depths greater than 750 feet.

Monitored at the Water Plants					
Parameter/Substance	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Main System Detections (Sampled in 2015 unless noted otherwise)		
			Minimum	Average	Maximum
Arsenic (ppb) ⁽¹⁾	10	0	ND	4.5	5.4
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05	0.1	0.4
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	ND	24	80
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	0.2	4.0
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	0.25	0.4
Nitrate (ppb)	10	10	ND	0.2	0.9
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	0.1	0.3
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	0.0	0.2
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND	0.0002	0.0022
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	ND	6.0	14.0
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	0	ND	2.2	6.4
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	ND	1.0	2.7
Combined Uranium (ppb)	30	0	ND	1.2	7.8
Turbidity (NTU) ⁽³⁾	TT 95% of samples tested each month ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	Lowest percentage ≤ 0.3 NTU: 96.1% Highest Single Measurement: 0.46 NTU		

(1) Arsenic - While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

(2) Subject to reduced monitoring requirements. Detected contaminant within the past five years, in the year indicated.

(3) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Unregulated Contaminants							
Unregulated Contaminant (Units)	Min	Avg	Max	Unregulated Contaminant (Units)	Min	Avg	Max
1,4-Dioxane (ppb) 2014 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.0	0.1	Hexavalent Chromium (ppb) 2013 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.7	5.1
Bromochloromethane (ppb) 2013 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.0	0.1	Molybdenum (ppb) 2014 ⁽¹⁾	ND	1	8
Chlorate (ppm) 2013 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.03	0.52	Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) (ppb) 2013 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.00	0.01
Chromium (ppb) 2014 ⁽¹⁾	ND	0.3	6	Strontium (ppb) 2014 ⁽¹⁾	ND	183	650
Cobalt (ppb) (2013)	ND	0.0	2.1	Vanadium (ppb) 2013 ⁽¹⁾	ND	1.1	16

(1) Contaminant detected in the year indicated, during the 2013 - 2014 unregulated monitoring sampling period.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected in 2014 are reported in the table below. For additional information and data visit <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr> or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.