

2008

WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT



City of  
West  
University  
Place



Water System  
ID #TX1010027





# In 2008, your water quality surpassed all state and federal requirements for drinking water.

## How and Why We Test Your Water

### Testing frequency

The City of West University Place tests your water daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, and at greater intervals for as many as 97 constituents. In 2008, we performed 6,163 individual tests on your water—a 64% increase over the testing done in 2007. Testing intervals are determined by state and federal regulatory agencies. The purpose of testing is to make sure your water quality remains within safe levels as determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### Who tests the water

Technicians who are licensed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) collect water samples from wells, storage facilities, points in the distribution system, and residents' homes. Much of our testing is done in the field, although some samples are sent to a state-licensed laboratory for analysis.

### What we test for

In general, we test for the following substances: biological (such as viruses and bacteria); inorganic (such as salts and metals); organic (such as chemicals from industrial or petroleum use); radioactive, which occur naturally or result from oil/gas production and mining activities; and pesticides and herbicides. The tests also check levels of inorganic ions (nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, phosphate, sulfate, chloride and bromide) that are essential for human health in small quantities, but which in larger quantities can cause unpleasant taste and odor—or even illness.

### How substances enter the water

As rain and other water travels over land and sinks through the ground into aquifers, the water dissolves certain naturally occurring minerals, and breaks down naturally occurring radioactive materials. This water may also pick up dissolved substances resulting from the presence of plants, animals or human activity.

### Who sets the regulations

To ensure that your water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA regulates tap water, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled 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.

*You may get more information about drinking water standards and the potential health effects of water constituents by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*

## Test Results

The water provided by the City of West University Place met or surpassed all state and federal requirements for drinking water in 2008. There were no violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The table on the facing page shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every contaminant we detected in the water—even in the minutest traces—is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance and the amount detected, together with numbers that show the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL) and the ideal goal for public health (MCLG).

While we did see a presence of volatile organic contamination (listed on the chart under "Disinfection Byproducts"), this is a by-product of disinfecting the water with chlorine. Chlorine is still the most-accepted and best-available technology for disinfecting drinking water.

## Where to Get More Information

When requesting information about the City of West University Place's water system, use our number (TX1010027), which is the number assigned to our water system by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Visit the EPA's water information site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

You may also call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the U.S. is available on the Internet at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com). Previous years' water quality reports for the City of West University Place are available at [www.westu.org](http://www.westu.org).

You are welcome to contact Patrick Walters, Operations Superintendent for the City of West University Place, with questions about your water. He may be reached at 713-662-5858 or [PWalters@westu.org](mailto:PWalters@westu.org).



## En Español

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte, favor de llamar al tel. 713-662-5846 para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

## YOUR WATER SOURCE

**Your water source in 2008 was a blend of 20% ground-water and 80% surface water.**

The groundwater comes from two water wells owned and operated by the City of West University Place. The wells pump water from about 560 feet down, drawing from the Evangeline Aquifer located in the Gulf Coastal Sands.

The surface water is purchased from the City of Houston's East Water Purification Plant #3. Because the City of Houston draws some of its water from surface sources (e.g. lakes or reservoirs), it tests regularly for cryptosporidium, a pathogen that causes a diarrheal illness. No cryptosporidium was found in the City of Houston's drinking water in 2008.

According to the City's Source Water Assessment (2006 completion), "Our source waters' contamination opportunities are rare and protection levels are high."

# TEST RESULTS

Meets/Exceeds Quality Standard	Constituent, Unit of Measurement	Test Date	Detected Level	Range	Regulatory Limit (MCL)	Regulatory Limit Goal (MCLG)	Likely Sources of Constituent
<b>INORGANIC</b>							
✓	Chloride, ppm	2008	34.0	34.0 – 34.0	300	300	Erosion of natural deposits
✓	Fluoride, ppm	2008	0.73	0.73 – 0.73	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
✓	Nitrate, ppm	2008	0.25	0.25 – 0.25	10.0	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks & sewage; erosion of natural deposits
✓	Nitrite, ppm	2006*	0.385	0.02 – 0.385	1.0	1.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks & sewage; erosion of natural deposits
✓	Sulfate, ppm	2008	66.0	66.0 – 66.0	300	300	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>							
N/A	Ammonia, ppm	2005*	0.85	0.69 – 0.85	N/A	N/A	Additive used in creating chloramines disinfectant
✓	Chlorine	2008	1.98	0.20 – 4.00	MRDL-4	MRDLG-4	Water additive used to control microbes
✓	THAAs (Total Haloacetic Acids), ppb	2008	28.9	9.1 – 28.9	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
✓	TTHMs (Total Trihalomethane), ppb	2008	39.3	18.1 – 39.3	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
✓	Chloramine, ppm	2007	1.63 – Avg.	0.2 – 4.0	MRDL-4	MRDLG-4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>UNREGULATED**</b>							
N/A	Bromochloroacetic Acid, ppb	2008	5.60	1.8 – 5.6	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Bromodichloromethane, ppb	2008	11.2	6.3 – 11.2	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Chloroform, ppb	2008	26.2	9.1 – 26.2	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Dibromochloromethane, ppb	2008	4.5	1.3 – 4.5	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Dichloroacetic Acid	2008	22	5.9 – 22	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Trichloroacetic Acid	2008	7.8	3.0 – 7.8	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Dibromoacetic Acid	2008	1.6	<1.0 – 1.6	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>TURBIDITY</b>							
✓	Turbidity, NTU (cloudiness)	2008	0.04 – Avg.	0.04 – 0.1	1.0	N/A	Soil runoff. See "Additional Health Information," next page. *100% of samples met regulatory limits.

## COPPER AND LEAD

Meets/Exceeds Quality Standard	Substance	Test Date	# Samples Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level (AL)	Number of test sites exceeding Action Level (AL)	Source of Contaminant
✓	Copper, mg/L	2007*	30	0.233	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
✓	Lead, ppb	2007*	30	3.4	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. See "Additional Health Information," to the right

## COLIFORM BACTERIA

Meets/Exceeds Quality Standard	Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of detections	# of months in violation	MCL	Violation	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
✓	Total Coliform Bacteria	1 positive sample in each of 2 different months; repeat test did not show positive	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	No	0	Naturally present in the environment



## INFORMATION FOR TEST RESULTS

\* These test dates reflect the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

\*\* The City of West University Place is participating in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to help the EPA in determine the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in this table. This data may also be found on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html>, or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### KEY

<b>ppb</b>	Parts per billion
<b>ppm</b>	Parts per million
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as low to the goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
<b>MCLG</b>	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.
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
<b>AL</b>	Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units – a measurement of particles in the water



## Additional Health Information

### Immune system disorders

Some people may be more vulnerable than others to constituents in drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek drinking water advice from their health care providers.

### Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. When your water has been sitting in the water lines 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 elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) for more information, or search at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### 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. The organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

### How to Get Involved

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome at regular City Council Meetings, which occur the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 3800 University Blvd., City of West University Place. Get more information about these meetings at [www.westu.org](http://www.westu.org) or by calling 713-662-5839.

# What Goes in the Gutter, Goes in the GULF.

Our storm sewers flow to the Gulf of Mexico.

## STOP

Dumping oil, paint, pesticides and herbicides in the gutters.

## TELL

Lawn workers to bag and remove leaves—not blow them into drains.

## REPORT

Construction workers who pollute waterways with dirty jobsites.

To report violations or ask questions, call 713.662.5839  
or contact Public Works at: [pwalters@westu.org](mailto:pwalters@westu.org)

Review our Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan  
at: [www.westu.org](http://www.westu.org)



Photo: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

## City of West University Place Drought Contingency Plan

# How The City Will Handle A Water Shortage

Although there's no water shortage now, you should be prepared to conserve water should drought occur—whether due to nature or another event that might restrict water supplies.

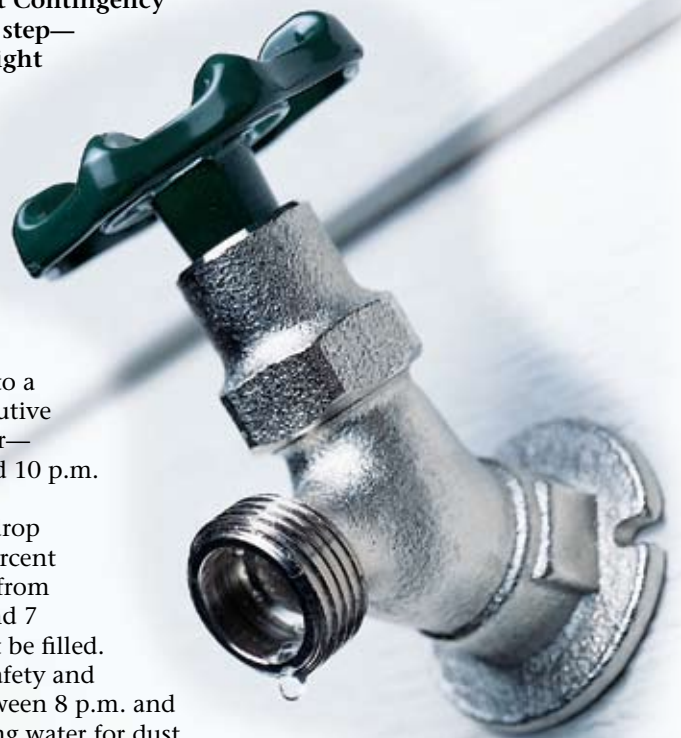
Several years ago, the City implemented a four-step Drought Contingency Plan that remains in place today. We always follow the first step—reminding you to conserve water each summer—but you might want to familiarize yourself with all four steps:

**1. Annual Conservation Reminder.** Each Spring, the City reminds water customers to conserve water. Users are urged to re-set their water irrigation timers to water earlier in the day...to check faucets for leaks...to readjust sprinkler heads...and to run washing machines and dishwashers only when full. This is good water stewardship—an important step to avoiding water shortages during summer.

**2. Voluntary Use Restrictions.** If the demand for water rises to a certain threshold (65 percent of pumping capacity for 3 consecutive days), the City will ask users to voluntarily conserve more water—including not watering outside between the hours of 5 a.m. and 10 p.m.

**3. Moderate Water Use Restrictions.** When water supplies drop significantly or when customer demand begins to require 70 percent pumping capacity for 3 consecutive days, users will be banned from outside watering (landscapes, washing cars) between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pools will not be filled. Most fountains and ponds will not be filled. Hydrants will not be flushed unless needed for public health, safety and welfare. Parks and green zone watering will be restricted to between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Non-essential uses of water (hosing down sidewalks, using water for dust control, etc.) will be prohibited. Full restrictions are listed at the City's website at [www.westu.org](http://www.westu.org) (click on City Departments: Public Works: Operations).

**4. Critical Water Use Restrictions.** If water supplies and/or demand reach certain critical thresholds or if water supplies become contaminated, then severe restrictions will occur, including a ban on all outdoor water use or irrigation, regardless of time of day. Police and other personnel will enforce the bans. This stage of the Plan will end when all conditions listed as "triggering events" have ceased to exist for five days.







City of West University Place  
Public Works Operations  
3826 Amherst  
West University Place, TX 77005

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## Prepare for Hurricane Season

Receive emergency communications via the City's free high-speed telephone service.

Sign up at: [www.westu.org](http://www.westu.org)

TCC/TTY service available for the hearing impaired.



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## Seven ways YOU can Save Water this summer:

- 1. Don't water during daylight.** Water early in the morning, before the sun is up, so water can soak down to plant roots before it evaporates away. You'll water less and get better results.
- 2. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave.** You'll use less water AND save on the sewer portion of your bill.
- 3. Run full (not partial) laundry and dishwasher loads.** You'll save energy as well as water.
- 4. Mulch trees and plant beds.** Roots stay moist longer.
- 5. Listen for toilet leaks and fix them.** If you hear your toilet filling at random times, you have a leak. Leaking toilets waste gallons of water a day.
- 6. If your sidewalks are wet, you may be over-watering.** Adjust sprinkler heads so you only water the lawn.
- 7. Fix your faucet leaks—inside and out.** A leaking faucet wastes water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.