

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

Presented By





Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides that 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 which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction in many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”
—W.H. Auden

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Brent Byrne, General Manager, at (661) 943-3170. The Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Water Quality Report is also available upon request.

From the General Manager

The drought of the past few years has been one for the record books. Quartz Hill Water District (QHWD) managed to continue to supply high-quality water which met or exceeded state and federal regulations. Over the course of 2022, our customers (whom we proudly serve) responded to Governor Newsom's state mandate to reduce water use by 15 percent. Not only did our community meet the state's request, we surpassed the mandate and achieved an 18-percent reduction from the months of May through December. Successful navigation of the drought is attributable to several measures, including customer response, strategic planning by the board of directors and staff, sound financial management, and our team of professionals who take pride in serving the community safe drinking water 24/7.

Recent storms have eased the concerns of drought for the time being. However, QHWD remains committed to pursuing long-term water supply strategies, and the focus will continue to be on water quality. QHWD is also implementing key steps of our strategic plan, which is to be conservation minded and proactive in safeguarding our finite resources by purchasing surplus surface water when it is available from AVEK, our state water contractor, and continuing to book water with the Antelope Valley Water Master each year. This and many other practices will guarantee a bright future for QHWD and preservation of one of the Antelope Valley's most precious resources--groundwater.

QHWD utilizes two sources of water: groundwater and surface water. All groundwater produced by QHWD comes from 10 wells the district owns and operates. In 2022 43 percent of the total amount of water used by QHWD came from these wells. The groundwater wells vary in depth from 500 to 600 feet and are monitored daily to ensure that only the highest quality of water is distributed through our system. A second source is surface water from AVEK's Quartz Hill Treatment Plant. This source provided 57 percent of the total water used during 2022. It is supplied to the district through two interconnections.

As we know, many people around the globe do not have access to safe drinking water. The quality of water used for drinking, cooking, and agriculture directly affects public health, safety, and welfare. QHWD has been and will always remain dedicated to providing clean, healthy, pure water. This is accomplished by a rigorous sampling strategy. Some examples of this are monthly general physical samples and weekly bacteriological samples throughout the system. This is just one way we ensure that only the highest quality of water is delivered to our customers. Additional parameters, not shown in this pamphlet, were tested but not reported because they were below the laboratory detection limit. All water quality analyses were conducted by a state-certified laboratory in compliance with State of California Department of Public Health drinking water standards.

Respectfully,

Brent Byrne

General Manager

Community Participation

We welcome input from our ratepayers. The board of directors meets online or in our boardroom on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome to attend board meetings. This information is also printed on the agenda, which can be found on our website at <https://qhwd.org/agendas/>.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment plan (SWAP) is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

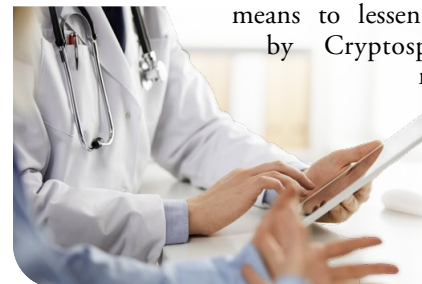
According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. 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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate

means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out its website at: <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3leRyXy>.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people: "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Variances and Exemptions

Each year, in accordance with state regulations and requirements, we evaluate which constituents have never been detected in our area and apply for an exemption on those test requirements. The Water Board carefully evaluates the data and approves which items we do not have to test for during that testing period. Exemptions are issued on certain constituents when they have a long history of nondetection during required testing.

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and *E. coli*. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

To the Last Drop

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines drought as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and people. Drought strikes in virtually all climate zones, from very wet to very dry.

There are primarily three types of drought: Meteorological Drought refers to the lack of precipitation, or the degree of dryness and the duration of the dry period; Agricultural Drought refers to the agricultural impact of drought, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, and reduced groundwater or reservoir levels needed for irrigation; and Hydrological Drought pertains to drought that usually occurs following periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that can impact water supply (i.e., stream flow, reservoir and lake levels, groundwater).

Drought is a temporary aberration from normal climatic conditions, thus it can vary significantly from one region to another. Although normally occurring, human factors such as water demand can exacerbate the duration and impact that drought has on a region. By following simple water conservation measures, you can help significantly reduce the lasting effects of extended drought.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the abovementioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. *Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:




- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) 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 at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

BY THE NUMBERS



The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

800
TRILLION

1 The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

99

50 The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's surface that is covered by water.

71

330
MILLION The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

The percent of the human brain that contains water.

75

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with these simple suggestions. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water.

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column and the value in the MCL (or AL or SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Verify that there were no violations of the state or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

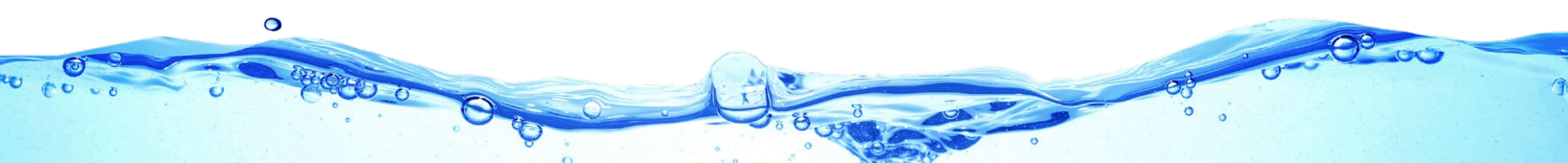
If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment)

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. NA means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management website (<https://goo.gl/kGepu4>) provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

Although *E. coli* was detected, the water system is not in violation of the *E. coli* maximum contaminant level (MCL). In September the laboratory we have used for an extended period of time had an “uptick in coliform-positive results.” Our water sample came back positive for *E. coli* during this time. A repeat sample tested negative. The lab sent a notification letter to all its clients indicating it had conducted a thorough investigation into the cause of the questionable positive results. The root cause was determined to be “the vessels (sample bottles) provided by the supplier.” To ensure that we receive accurate, consistent results, we now send these samples to another lab. We have returned to our normal pattern of negative/absent results and have had no further issues.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2022	10	0.004	5.8	ND–24 ¹	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	0.75	0.31–1.06	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2022	50	(100)	4.6	ND–14	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	2.0	1	0.48	0.45–0.49	No	NA
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2012	60	NA	5.5	ND–17.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	8.2	5.1–13.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2016	NS ²	0.02	11.3	7.6–15	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2022	10	10	4.46	0.9–8.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2022	5	0.019	1.3	1.3–1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2012	80	NA	23.6	ND–76.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	34.3	15.2–74.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	0.3	0.25	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0.2	ND	0/32	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2022	500	NS	21	14–27	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2022	3	NS	1	1–1	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2022	1,600	NS	423.33	380–460	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2022	500	NS	36	32–42	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2022	1,000	NS	280	270–300	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ³				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Boron (ppb)	2022	133	100–190	NA
Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium] (ppb)	2022	9.4	2.2–15	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2022	67	62–79	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2022	24	17–38	NA

¹In July 2022, a sample was submitted prior to running it through the arsenic mitigation treatment facility, giving a result of 24 ppb. The result following treatment was 1.18 ppb, well below the MCL.

²There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 0.010 ppm was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

³Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Board determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Q&A

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the U.S. EPA.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

NA: Not applicable.

NS: No standard.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TON: Threshold Odor Number The greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that still yields a just-detectable odor.

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.