

# 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## HARRIS COUNTY WCID No. 92

*Yes, your water is safe to drink*



### Superior Public Water System

Your water district, Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 92 (WCID 92), maintains recognition as a "Superior Public Water System" with the TCEQ. This recognition demonstrates that the District's water quality meets or exceeds all requirements set forth in the Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems.

### Outstanding Performance

WCID 92 has been awarded Outstanding Performance Certificates for no violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act bacteriological sampling rule from 2001-2007. The District continues with the same performance record to date.

**En Español – Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. 281.376.8802 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.**

### Table Information

The tables contain chemical constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Only two regulated constituents were detected in WCID 92's water, and these were well below the maximum contaminant level allowed in drinking water. The agencies do not require some contaminants to be monitored annually because their concentrations are not expected to vary. This report states the results of the most current water testing from 2005 through 2009.



REGULATED INORGANICS									
Year Tested	Contaminant Detected	Unit of Measure	Average Level*	Minimum Level*	Maximum Level*	Allowed (EPA's MCL)	MCLG	Meets Standards	Possible source of Contaminant
2009	Nitrate	ppm	0.220	0.220	0.220	10.0	10.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
UNREGULATED INORGANICS									
2002	Sodium	ppm	30.700	30.700	30.700	n/a	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits

\* When there is only one sample, the average, minimum, and maximum will be the same number.

DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS								
Year	Constituent	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	MRDL	MRDLG	Source
2009	Free Chlorine	ppm	1.63	0.90	2.30	4.0	4.0	Disinfectant used to control microbes

COLIFORM – SAMPLES TAKEN AT OUTSIDE FAUCETS OF HOMES IN THE DISTRICT					
Year Tested	Constituent	Unit of Measure	Highest Monthly No. Positive Samples	MCL	Source of Constituent
2009	Total Coliform Bacteria	present	1**	‡‡	Human & animal fecal waste.

‡ ‡ Two or more coliform found samples in any single month. \* Samples are collected each month from various homes at their outside faucet. All previous and repeat samples were free of coliform bacteria.

**Total Coliform** Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

LEAD AND COPPER – TESTED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP (SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM 20 HOMES)						
Year Tested	Substance	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile	# of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Possible Sources of Lead and Copper
2007	Lead	ppb	3.9000	1 of 20	15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
2007	Copper	ppm	0.1750	0 of 20	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits

**Lead in the Drinking Water** 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### DEFINITIONS

**Contaminant:** The technical term for anything else in water except pure water is "contaminant." Technically, pure, fresh orange juice can be considered water which has been "contaminated" by the oil, orange pulp and flavorings in the orange which make it taste so good.

Obviously, some contaminants aren't good and can actually be hazardous to your health at specific levels. Those are the ones that are tested and measured.

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

### MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level:

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels.

**MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL, Max. Residual Disinfectant Level:** 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.

### MRDLG, Max. 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 contamination.

n/a: not established at this time

**ppm – Part per million:** One part per million equals one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40 times.

**ppb – Part per billion:** One part per billion equals one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40,000 times.

## Our Water Meets all Federal (EPA) and State Requirements

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assessed our system, HARRIS COUNTY WCID No. 92 (WCID 92), and determined that our water is safe to drink. The analysis was made by using the data in the tables in this report which uses testing results from 2005 through 2009. Because our water meets all state and federal drinking water health standards for the sampling period, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. WCID 92 system identification number is 101-0124. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

## What's in the Water

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 which must 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791**, or at the following web site: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

Bottled water information may be obtained at: [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp).

## Secondary Constituents

Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. These constituents are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA.

The secondary constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the TCEQ. This information 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 information contained in the assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at [dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/](http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/). For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## The Green Choice — Tap water

Clean fresh well water is delivered to your home for just pennies a glass without the fuel consumption of trucking or the waste left behind by plastic bottles.



## Where Your Water Comes From

WCID 92 obtains its water from three wells, here in the District. The wells draw ground water from the Evangeline and Chicot Aquifers. These aquifers are not prone to contain Cryptosporidium organisms as mentioned in the "Special Notice" on this page.

Cryptosporidium is prone to be found in some surface water sources due to exposure of surface pollution. WCID 92 does not obtain water from any surface water source.

## Public Participation

WCID 92 meets at 7 p.m. in the District on the first Monday of each month at 25515 Holyoke, at the wastewater treatment plant. Any last minute cancellations will be posted at 3214 Deer Valley (water plant). Call 281.355.9138 for directions.

## Have Questions

If you would like more information about particular health risks or contaminants, you may call the EPA at 1.800.426.4791, or the Harris County Health Department at 713.439.6000. EPA has answers to many questions at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions).

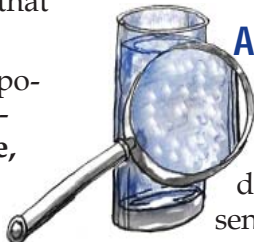
The District's Operator, Water District Management (WDM), may also be able to assist you with your questions, 281.376.8802.



## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

WCID 92 participated in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) in order to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If any unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in the tables in this report.

This data may also be found on EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod), or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



## Additional Testing

Additional testing is done daily at the water plant and throughout the community at various locations to ensure that a safe level of disinfectant is in the system. Water samples are sent to an independent state-approved laboratory to verify the absence of harmful bacteria. No such bacteria has been detected in this water system.



## Use Chemicals Sparingly

**Pesticides kill insects - all insects, even the good ones.**

No one would spread pesticides or fertilize over a body of water, but when you over-apply chemicals the excess washes down the street and eventually into streams and lakes.

Read the label and follow the directions. Choose natural products when possible and protect creeks, lakes and the Gulf — our water.

KIDS OF ALL AGES

Have fun at the Ground Water Adventure

BRAIN TICKLERS

FUN FACTS

WATER EXPERIMENTS at

[www.groundwateradventures.org](http://www.groundwateradventures.org)



## How to Dispose of Grease

Please put your grease in a container with a lid and then dispose of in your trash.

Grease can create sewer back-ups in your household lines and in the District's sewer lines causing expensive repairs.



## SPECIAL NOTICE for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS, those that are undergoing treatment with steroids, or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791.