



# CITY OF ODESSA

## 2003 WATER QUALITY REPORT

### **ODESSA'S DRINKING WATER EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS!**

This report is a summary of the quality of water Odessa provides its customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented on the following pages. We hope this information helps you to become more knowledgeable about your water supply.

*En Español: El siguiente reporte contiene información sobre la calidad de nuestra agua potable. Para mas información en español, favor de hablar a este teléfono 335-4625.*

**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 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 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 (800-426-4791).

**Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?** The City purchases all of its water, untreated, from the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD). The majority of the water is surface water from Lake Ivie. Lake Thomas and Lake Spence are also potential sources of surface water for our drinking water supply. The City may also receive well water from Ward County during certain times of the year to supplement the surface water supplies.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has completed its review of the drinking water sources from which we purchase water. This report discusses the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come in contact with the drinking water sources based on human activities and natural conditions. For more information, call 335-4625.

**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 at (800) 426-4791.

**About the Tables Contained In This Report.** The tables in this report list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents, which have been found in Odessa's water. The EPA requires testing of up to 97 constituents. The concentrations (MCL and MCLG) of these standards are set by the EPA based on the potential health effects of the regulated constituent in the public water supply. The following terms are used in the tables:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

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

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

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

**pCi/L** - Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**ppm** - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**ppb** - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu$  g/L).

**Lead and Copper**

Year	Constituent	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Lead	3.5000	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Copper	0.1050	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.

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

Year	Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits in 95% of Samples	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Turbidity	0.83	100%	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff

**Inorganics**

Year	Constituent	Highest Level at any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2002	Arsenic	4.2	4.2000-4.2000	50	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards. Runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
2002	Barium	0.186	0.1860-0.1860	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Flouride	0.9	0.9000-0.9000	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2003	Nitrate	0.62	0.6200-0.6200	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Selenium	11.7	11.7000-11.7000	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from mines.
2002	Sodium	328	328.00-328.00	NA	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. By-product of oilfield activity.
2002	Gross alpha adjusted	3.3	3.3000-3.3000	15	0	pci/L	Erosion of natural deposits
2002	Gross beta emitters	7.5	7.5000-7.5000	50	0	pci/L	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

**Organics - EITHER NOT TESTED FOR OR NOT DETECTED.**

**Trihalomethanes**

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels, Single Measurement	MCL, Annual Average	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Total Trihalomethanes	22.99	15.80-41.70	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
2003	Total Haloacetic Acids	12.75	10.70-21.70	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2003	Bromoform	7.9	7.9000-7.9000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003	Bromodichloromethane	1.8	1.8000-1.8000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003	Chlorodibromomethane	4.9	4.9000-4.9000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants

**Coliforms - What Are Coliforms?**

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.

Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, E. coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of drinking water with fecal material. The following table indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing by your water supplier last year.

**Total Coliform – Not Detected**

**Fecal Coliform - Not Detected.**

**Secondary Constituents** - As previously stated, Odessa’s drinking water meets all Primary Drinking Water Standards established to protect public health. Since Odessa’s water meets these standards, there may not be any health-based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. There are other constituents regulated as Secondary Drinking Water Standards, which contribute to the aesthetic quality of the water. Therefore, the following constituents are provided for your information.

Constituent	Average of all Samples, ppm	Range of Detected Levels
Sulfate	397	248-461
Chloride	501	350-580
Hardness	553	392-640
Total Dissolved Solids	1498	1069-1776

**Cryptosporidium** - Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that if ingested may result in diarrhea, cramps, fever, and other gastro-intestinal symptoms. The organism comes from the digestive tract of humans and animals. During 2003, the City of Odessa tested the water from its lakes on a quarterly basis. The presence of Cryptosporidium was not detected in any of these samples.

***Water Conservation Is Everyone's Responsibility.*** Water continues to be one of the most precious resources in West Texas. Although the City of Odessa does not currently mandate water conservation, we strongly encourage our customers to use our limited water resources wisely. The following conservation tips will assist you in your water conservation efforts.

### ***Outdoor Tips***

- Water early in the morning when winds and temperatures are low.
- Water until the soil is wet to a depth of about 6 inches. Then wait until the grass shows signs of drought stress (grass leaves turning a dull blush color, leaf blades folding, or persistent footprints after walking on the lawn) before watering again.
- Control water so that it stays on your lawn areas and out of the streets.
- Irrigate using a system that disperses large drops of water at a low angle.
- Select drought tolerant plants and grasses and condition the soil with mulch and compost.
- Add sufficient fertilizer to stimulate the roots of your lawn, but do not over fertilize.
- Do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf area of the grass when mowing. This will provide a denser leaf, which will lessen evaporation and help prevent weeds.

### ***Indoor Tips***

- Fix leaks immediately. Even a small leak wastes a lot of water.
- Only wash full loads when using your dishwasher.
- Use the lowest possible water level setting when washing clothes.
- Install low flow showerheads and low water usage toilets to assist in indoor conservation.

For more water conservation tips, visit the City of Odessa website at [www.odessa-tx.gov](http://www.odessa-tx.gov).

***Questions or Comments?*** The Utilities Department values your comments on the Water Quality Report as well as on other issues relating to water quality or provision of water service. If you have any comments or questions or would like additional conservation information, please contact us by calling 335-4625 or write us at City of Odessa Utilities Department, P.O. Box 4398, Odessa, Texas 79760.