



## CITY OF ODESSA

### 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT PWS No. TX0680002



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

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Odessa to provide safe drinking 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

For more information regarding this report contact: Thomas Kerr at 432-335-4634.

En español: Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (432) 335-4631 – para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

**Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:** You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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. The City of Odessa 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**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 (Runnels County), Lake Thomas (Scurry County), and Lake Spence (Coke County). Groundwater or wells are also sources for our drinking water supply. The City may receive water from Ward and Martin Counties wells as needed to meet water system demands. The TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

**Water Sources:** 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 Contaminants that may be present in the source:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrially or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production activities.

**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 data presented in the report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. The following abbreviations/definitions are used in the tables:

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)

**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 (µg/L).

**ppt** - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.

**ppq** - parts per quadrillion, or pictograms per liter

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

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - 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.

**na** - not applicable

### Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Year	Description	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Unit of Measurement	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2015	Highest Single Measurement	0.31	1	NTU	N	Soil Runoff.
2015	Lowest monthly % meeting limit	100%	0.3	NTU	N	Soil Runoff.

### 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.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Coliform Bacteria	0.9	*	Presence	Naturally present in the environment

\* Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples

**Fecal Coliforms** - No fecal coliform bacteria were detected in the water supply during the required monitoring for 2015.

### Inorganics

Year	Constituent	Highest	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2015	Antimony	0.63	0.63	0.63	6	6	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, solder, test addition
2015	Arsenic	0.63	0.99	0.99	10	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2015	Barium	0.16	0.16	0.16	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Chromium	0.78	0.78	0.78	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from Steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.

2015	Cyanide	122	122	122	200	200	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
2015	Fluoride	0.3	0.256	0.25	4.0	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
2015	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0.453	0.453	0.453	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use. Leaching from septic tanks, sewage. Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Selenium	1.7	1.7	1.7	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2015	Thallium	0	0	0	2	0.5	ppb	N	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from one-processing sites; drug factories.

Nitrate Advisory – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

#### Radioactive Contaminants

Year	Constituent	Highest Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Beta/photon emitters	10.3	10.3 – 10.3	50*	0	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2011	Combined Radium 226/228	1	1 - 1	5	0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.								

#### Disinfectant Residuals

Year	Constituent	Annual Average	Range of Detected Levels from Single Sample		MRDL for Annual Average	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
			Minimum	Maximum					Disinfectant used to control microbes.
2015	Chloramines	3.9	0.4	5.2	4	<4.0	ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

#### Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Constituent	Highest Level Detected Average	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL, Annual Average of all samples	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	35	10.9	58.6	80	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	16	4.5	30.2	60	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

#### Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2014	Lead	2.55	0	15	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Copper	0.169	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

**Water Loss**

Water loss and accountability is reported annually to the Texas Water Development Board. Water loss is based on the amount of water metered for delivery exiting the Water Treatment Plant less the amount of water accounted for as metered to the customers throughout the system. Numerous factors account for the 'loss' of water including line breaks, filter backwash, weeping mains, theft, water quality flushing, and meter inaccuracy.

Year	Description	Produced Water (Gallons)	Metered Water (Gallons)	Water Losses (Gallons)	Lost Water Percentage	10 Year Target
2015	Water Accountability	5,388,737,000	4,879,155,000	21,089,921	9.5%	12%

**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. No meetings concerning this report are scheduled. If you have any comments or questions or would like additional conservation information, please contact us by calling 432-335-4631, write us at City of Odessa Utilities Department, P.O. Box 4398, Odessa, Texas 79760 or email us at [utilities@odessa-tx.gov](mailto:utilities@odessa-tx.gov)

# Help Protect Our Environment

# And Conserve Our Water



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The right place in Texas™



P.O. Box 4398  
Odessa, Texas 79760  
(432) 335-4625

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP...



Don't pour deadly chemicals down the drain!

Keep pet wastes, leaves and debris out of gutters and storm drains.



Use non-toxic products in your gardening; fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate drinking water by running off into rivers and streams or seeping into groundwater.



Leave grass clippings on the lawn.



Dispose of household hazardous wastes (used antifreeze, paint and other household chemicals) properly. Call your local solid waste department for information on proper disposal.

Dispose of used oil and oil filters at recycling facilities or at a designated collection center.



Managing waste properly keeps it out of our waterways, prevents pollution and keeps us healthier! Non-point source pollution is everyone's responsibility because we all contribute to it. Everyone can make an important contribution to protecting one of our most valuable resources - [water!](#)

## Don't Be A Water Waster!

- Take **short** showers and shallow baths
- **Turn off** the water while brushing your teeth
- Use **water efficient** shower heads, faucets, washing machines and dishwashers
- Only run the washing machine and dishwasher with **full loads**
- Lose the **leaks** - fix them immediately
- Never water during the **heat** of the day or when it is windy
- Don't water the **sidewalks** - they won't grow
- Use **mulch** around your trees and plants to keep the soil cool and reduce evaporation
- Only water when your lawn or garden **needs** it



# Fat-Free Sewers

Ever wonder why your sewer lines backup or you see manholes overflowing? Many of these problems are caused by the disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) into the sewer system. To help prevent expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies and public health issues, the City of Odessa is asking its residents to follow these **DO's** and **DON'Ts**.

- DO:** Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- DO:** Dispose of large amounts of FOG, by mixing clay cat litter, a little at a time, with the FOG. When all of the FOG has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal the bag, and dispose of it with your regular trash.
- DO:** Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container, allowing it to solidify or absorb it with cat litter or paper towels and placing the sealed container in the trash.
- DO:** Wipe pots, pans and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.
- DO:** Use strainers in sink drains to prevent food scraps from entering the sewer system.
  
- DON'T:** Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean grease dishes. When they are washed, the grease will go to the sewer.
- DON'T:** Put grease or greasy food into the garbage disposal.
- DON'T:** Use hot water to rinse FOG from the dishes and pots and pans. As the water cools, the FOG will solidify and clog the pipes.
- DON'T:** Rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease. They only pass it down the line where it causes problems in other areas.
- DON'T:** Pour FOG, including salad dressings and sauces, into your drains, the toilet, the alley, or gutters.

Clogged pipes, whether in your household plumbing or in the sewer system, are a major nuisance and a public health issue. In fact, sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) from the collection system must be reported to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as a violation of the wastewater discharge permits they issue. We are therefore, asking our residents to help us make our sewers "fat free" so that we can reduce the number of SSOs which occur in our collection system. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!!