



Austin Water delivers drinking water of the highest quality, providing exceptional value and reliability. This annual Drinking Water Quality Report provides information on the City of Austin's drinking water.

Austin's drinking water met all national and state water quality standards and had no violations in 2017. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all drinking water suppliers provide a water quality report to their customers on an annual basis.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al 512-972-0214.

There are many opportunities for public participation. The Austin City Council meets on Thursdays. Information on these meetings can be found by visiting [austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings](http://austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings)

## WATER SOURCES

Customers of the River Place Water System receive their drinking water from the River Place Water Treatment Plant. The River Place plant treats and filters surface water which is fed through the Highland Lakes by the Lower Colorado River. The water is treated according to federal and state standards to remove any possible harmful contaminants.

The sources of drinking water nationwide (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 can be polluted by animals or human activity.

The Lower Colorado River watershed reaches many miles upstream, passing through agricultural and urban areas. Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria;

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals;

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic chemicals**, from industrial or petroleum use,

**Radioactive materials**, which can be naturally-occurring.

EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily a cause for health concerns. For concerns with taste, odor, or color of drinking water, contact Austin Water at 512-972-0021.

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 the 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**.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (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 the water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact Austin Water's Regulatory Manager at 512-972-0021.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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 chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are 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 800-426-4791.

All surface water sources are known to be susceptible to contamination by *Cryptosporidium*. Because of this, Austin Water monitors for *Cryptosporidium* in Lake Austin which is the water source for the River Place Water Treatment Plant. *Cryptosporidium* was not found in the lake water tested in 2017.

## DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

The River Place Water System was in full compliance with the State of Texas and the EPA national primary drinking water regulations during the 12-month period covered by this report.

## WATER LOSS

For real losses (water lost to leakage) in 2017, please visit [austinwater.org/waterquality](http://austinwater.org/waterquality).

# WATER QUALITY REPORT | RIVER PLACE & GLENLAKE

January - December 2017



Substance (Sampled for in 2017 unless noted differently)	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	City of Austin Drinking Water			Ideal Goals (EPA's MCLG)	Possible Sources
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant</b>						
		<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Average</b>		
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2	0.06	0.06	0.06	2	Natural geology
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	4	0.19	0.19	0.19	4	Natural geology, supplement
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	10	0.32	0.32	0.32	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
<b>Gross Beta</b> (pCi/L) 2015	50	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
<b>Combined Radium 226/228</b> (pCi/L) 2015	5	1.5	1.5	1.5		Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Cyanide</b> (ppb)	200	130	130	130	200	Discharge from manufacturing
<b>Turbidity</b> (ntu)-(clarity)	TT (95% of the samples must be at or below 0.3 ntu)	0.05	0.43	0.09	Not applicable	Natural river sediment, runoff
		99.9% of the readings were below 0.3 ntu			Austin Water measures turbidity (cloudiness of the water) as an indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.	
<b>TOC Removal Ratio*</b>	Annual avg ≥1	0.78	1.86	1.29	Avg ≥1	
*The TOC removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed through the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed. Total organic carbon (TOC) has no adverse health effects. Total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts when water is disinfected. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) which are reported below.						
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>						
<b>Chloramines</b> (mg/l)	4.0 (MRDL)	0.93	2.90	2.17	≤4 (MRDLG)	Disinfectant used to control microbes
<b>Haloacetic Acids</b> (5) (ppb)	Yearly Average 60	13.8	21.7	16.7	not applicable	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Trihalomethanes*</b> (ppb)	Yearly average 80	34.3	56.6	48.8	not applicable	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>E. Coli Positive</b>	A routine sample or repeat sample is total coliform positive and one is also E.coli positive	No samples were positive.			0	Human and animal fecal waste
*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.						
<b>Lead and Copper Testing is done at the customer's taps. Testing is done every 3 years.</b>						
<b>Copper</b> (ppm) 2015	AL=1.3	90% of all samples tested were <0.02 ppm. None exceeded 1.3			1.3	Household plumbing
<b>Lead</b> (ppb) 2015	AL=15	90% of all samples tested were <1.0 ppb. None exceeded 15			0	Household 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. Austin Water 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 (800-426-4791) or <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a> .						
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>						
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit <a href="http://epa.gov">epa.gov</a> , or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).						
Substance	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Low	High	Average	Ideal Goals	Possible Sources
<b>Bromodichloromethane</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	11.4	21.9	17.9	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Chlorodibromomethane</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	7.3	14.3	10.7	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Chloroform</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	15.0	22.9	18.3	70	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Bromoform</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	<1.0	2.0	1.7	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Dichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	6.3	11.2	8.9	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Trichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	3.3	9.1	5.4	20	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Dibromoacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	1.4	3.1	2.4	No MCLG	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Bromochloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	Not Regulated	3.9	6.7	5.5	No MCLG	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Table Key</b>						
<b>AL = Action Level</b> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow	<b>TT = Treatment Technique</b> TT is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water	<b>ppm = parts per million</b> or milligrams per liter (mg/l)		<b>ppb = parts per billion</b> or micrograms per liter (µg/l)		<b>ntu = nephelometric turbidity units</b> (a measure of turbidity)
						<b>pCi/L = Picocuries per liter</b> (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>MCL = Maximum Contamination Level</b> – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment technology	<b>MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</b> – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is evidence that addition of a disinfectant helps control microbial contaminants	<b>MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</b> – 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			<b>MCLG = Maximum Contamination Level Goal</b> 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.	