The Source of Your Drinking Water

The City’s water is supplied by ground water wells located across the City. Our water is drawn from the Chicot Aquifer located within the major Gulf Coast Aquifer which parallels the coastline from Louisiana to Mexico. When we turn on our faucet it is easy to see what we pay for—water. What is not so simple to see, is what it takes for the water to get to our faucets. Below ground, we have over 113 miles of water pipes, 7,600 water meters, 400 fire hydrants and 400 isolation valves in our system! Licensed Water Operators, Customer Service Technicians and Utility Maintenance Crews work around the clock to ensure high quality water is delivered to your faucet. In 2022, Bay City Water Plants produced over 970 million gallons of water!

Residential Plumbing & Lead Exposure

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 faucet 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

Residential plumbing may require controls to reduce lead exposure. Contact your utility service provider or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline for more information.

Important Health 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; persons 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).

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono 979-323-1659.

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.

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: EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791
The City of Bay City is committed to supplying superior rated drinking water to its citizens. The water well associated with the Arsenic MCL violation was taken out of service and has remained out of service since we received the first notice from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in December 2021. At the time of this report, the City is conducting a study to determine the most cost-effective solution to mitigate the arsenic level at this water well.

Water Loss - In 2022 our system lost 342,372,870 gallons of water due to breaks, leaks, meter inaccuracies, data handling errors and unauthorized use.