



# 2015 City of Tempe Water Quality Report

This report is also available at [www.tempe.gov/ccr](http://www.tempe.gov/ccr)

**The water provided by the City of Tempe meets or surpasses all Federal and State water quality standards.**

The City of Tempe is pleased to provide our customers with Tempe's annual "Consumer Confidence Report" for calendar year 2015. This report provides information regarding the quality of drinking water provided by the City of Tempe. Included is a listing of results from required water quality tests, as well as an explanation of where our water comes from and tips on how to interpret the data.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Pongase en contacto con el Departamento de Comunicaciones de la Ciudad de Tempe al (480) 350-4311.

***If other people, such as tenants, residents, patients, students, or employees receive water from you, it is important that you provide this report to them by posting it in a conspicuous location or by direct hand or mail delivery.***

## Overview

In 2015, the City of Tempe Water Utilities Division of the Public Works Department distributed 15.3 billion gallons of water to Tempe and Guadalupe customers. In addition to testing that we are required to perform, the results of which are provided in this report, our water system routinely monitors for additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of the highest quality. For more information, please contact the City of Tempe at (480) 350-4311.

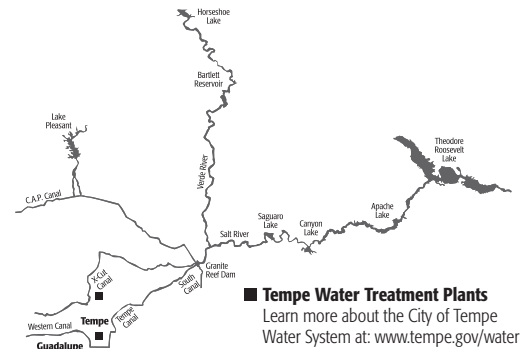
## Water Sources

In 2015, the drinking water in Tempe was produced at two conventional water treatment plants and ten ground water wells. The Johnny G. Martinez Water Treatment Plant is located at 255 E. Marigold Lane. The South Tempe Water Treatment Plant is located at 6600 S. Price Road. The City of Tempe provides water to its customers from several sources:

**Central Arizona Project (CAP) water** – Beginning its journey from Lake Havasu, Colorado River water is delivered through the CAP canal system to central Arizona, including the Phoenix and Tucson areas. Tempe used 0.77 billion gallons of Colorado River water delivered by CAP for municipal use in 2015.

**Salt River Project (SRP) water** -- This water is collected from the Salt and Verde River watersheds, stored in six SRP reservoirs and diverted into SRP canals at the Granite Reef Dam in Mesa. SRP also relies on groundwater wells to supplement surface water in the canal system. Tempe's allocation of SRP water depends on the amount of runoff from the watershed and the amount of water available in storage in SRP reservoirs, and therefore varies from year to year. Tempe's SRP water use for 2015 was 12.2 billion gallons.

**Groundwater** -- In 2015, Tempe used ten of its groundwater wells to supplement the supplies of Central Arizona Project water and Salt River Project water. Tempe pumped 2.4 billion gallons of water from its wells, which was a combination of groundwater and surface water previously stored underground in our aquifers.



## Contaminants in Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The levels of contaminants in Tempe's finished water are largely determined by source water, which can vary from year-to-year depending on watershed conditions, reservoir storage, and the volume of ground water pumped. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants in tap water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. Information on bottled water can be obtained from the Food and Drug Administration.

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- (A) microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may be from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;
- (B) inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- (C) pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- (D) organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and
- (E) radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Tempe Drinking Water Quality

The following tables show regulated substances that were required to be tested and were detected in Tempe drinking water in 2015. Tempe monitored for many more substances which were not detected. The tables contain the name of each substance detected, the highest level allowed by regulation, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, and the usual sources of such contamination. Certain contaminants are required to be monitored less than one time per year because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. For those contaminants that were not required to be tested in 2015, this report includes data from the most recent required testing done within the last five years. Tempe has maintained compliance with all Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels.

### Definitions and Acronyms:

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a public water system shall follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs 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 risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**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 contaminants.

**Non-Detect (ND):** Not detected in sample.

**Not Applicable (N/A):** Does not apply.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)/ Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Units used to measure the concentration of a substance found in water. One ppm is approximately equal to 1/2 gallon of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool. One ppb is a thousand times less than one ppm.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) - RAA** for a specified location.

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

**Variances and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission to not meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

## Tempe's Approach to Lead

Lead in drinking water, as has been experienced in Flint, MI, comes from the leaching of lead from service lines, plumbing, fixtures, and solder as water is being delivered by a water provider to its customers. There are several important factors that can impact the levels of lead in water: (1) the age of plumbing, type of materials used, workmanship, and size of pipes within the customer's household or structure, and (2) the corrosivity of the water delivered by the water provider.

The crisis in Flint resulted from a combination of very old service lines and internal plumbing with high lead content, and water delivered from the utility with a corrosive nature. Water that is corrosive tends to leach constituents from pipes and plumbing fixtures, including lead if present, causing them to be dissolved in the water. While Tempe cannot control the conditions present within a household that may pose a risk, City records and field observations indicate that no lead service lines were used in Tempe. Additionally, the City takes the following measures to reduce the likelihood of lead leaching from pipes and plumbing fixtures:

1. Tempe's water is not considered corrosive. On the contrary, the water is considered "hard" meaning it is more likely to *deposit* constituents than leach them. Hard water can be seen as a nuisance, but the depositional quality of hard water is why we *strongly* encourage residents not to install whole-house water softeners, which can cause the water to become corrosive by reducing hardness.
2. Every three years Tempe monitors a cross-section of households within the City that are considered to be most vulnerable to the possibility of lead leaching from plumbing and fixtures. These are predominantly homes built between 1982 and 1988 when lead solder was used to install plumbing and fixtures. Tempe consistently complies with the EPA's action level for lead. The City provides any individual household for which testing indicates lead above the EPA's action level with notice and a suggested course of action for the household to take to reduce that level.

These programs, as well as daily City sampling and monitoring, ensure that non-corrosive, clean and safe drinking water is delivered to every customer's home or establishment.

Substance	Unit	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	# of results above action level	Violation (Yes or No)	Major sources
Copper (2015)	ppm	1.3	0.25	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (2015)	ppb	15	8.4	4	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

50 Households tested for lead and copper.

**Lead** - 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 Tempe is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 two 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 at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.

Substance	Unit	MCL	High	Lowest monthly % meeting limit	Violation (Yes or No)	Major Sources
Turbidity	NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)	TT = 1; and not less than 95% ≤ 0.3 NTU	0.08	100%	No	Soil runoff into canals.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Substance	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected / Range	Violation (Yes or No)	Major Sources
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	1.5 - 3*	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (2014)	ppm	2	2	0.05 - 0.11	No	
Chlorine	ppm	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	ND - 1.7	No	Disinfectant added to control microbial contaminants.
Chromium (Total) (2014)	ppb	100	100	ND - 9.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.25 - 0.76	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Gross Alpha (2014)	pCi/L	15	0	1.7 - 8.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.54 - 6.6	No	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Selenium (2014)	ppb	50	50	ND - 1.0	No	Leaching of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries and mining.
Tetrachloroethylene (2014)	ppb	5	0	ND - 0.8	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners.
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	TT	N/A	ND - 3.1	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Uranium (2014)	ppb	30	0	ND - 12.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

\* Range includes calculated running annual averages.

**Nitrate** - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants 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 for advice from your healthcare provider.

Substance	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Result	Violation (Yes or No)	Major Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	Absent or Present	No more than 5% of monthly samples can be positive	0	1.5% highest monthly % present	No	Naturally present in the environment.

Substance	Unit	MCL	Highest Locational Running Annual Average	Range (single sample)	Violation (Yes or No)	Major Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	Running Annual Average of 80	60	4.0 - 90	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic acids (HAA)	ppb	Running Annual Average of 60	15	ND - 22	No	

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)** - Some people who drink water containing TTHMs 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.

### Special Information for Immuno-compromised People

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, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare 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 through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

### Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small

children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates, although infrequent, these organisms are present in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Based on source water monitoring for Cryptosporidium at Tempe's two water treatment plants between October 2003 and October 2006, Tempe's source water was determined to be low risk under EPA's regulations for cryptosporidium. In 2015, Tempe began a twenty-four month second round of raw water monitoring for cryptosporidium. The results of the monitoring will be used to determine if additional treatment is required to remove the level of cryptosporidium found. To date the results do not indicate that additional treatment will be necessary. Results range from not detected to 0.364 organisms per liter.



## Source Water Assessment Summary

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed an assessment of the source waters and drinking water wells for Tempe's public water system in 2004. The assessment reviewed the hydrologic settings in which sources are located and any adjacent land uses that may pose a potential contamination risk to water sources. These potential risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, landfills, dry cleaners, agricultural fields, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities. ADEQ categorized sources as either "high risk" or "low risk" to future contamination (either natural or manmade). A designation of high risk indicates there are additional source water protection measures that can be implemented at the local level. A low risk designation indicates that most source water protection measures are either already implemented, and/or the hydrogeologic setting is such that it is protective of the source water.

ADEQ categorized all surface water sources as high risk because they are open to the atmosphere. The overall risk posed to surface water is addressed by EPA through its increased monitoring requirements for surface water sources.

Most of Tempe's drinking water wells were designated at low risk in the ADEQ 2004 source water assessment. However, two wells were considered at high risk for possible future contamination based upon adjacent land use. The two wells are located within the boundaries of the South Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site in Tempe (SIBW). EPA's first five-year review of the SIBW (September, 2011) suggests that the risk to these wells is decreasing. Tempe continues to regularly conduct monitoring of drinking water from all wells to ensure that nearby land use has not impacted the source water. Regular monitoring provides time for Tempe to sever contaminated sources from Tempe's drinking water infrastructure well in advance of reaching concentrations that posed a public health risk. For more information on the SIBW visit the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/cleanup/arizona.html>

The complete Source Water Assessment is available for review at ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007, or you may request an electronic copy from ADEQ by phone: (602) 771-4597. For more information visit the ADEQ website at: <http://azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/swap.html>

## Substances of Frequent Interest to Customers

Substance	Units	Average Value	Range of Values
Alkalinity	ppm	140	120 - 360
Aluminum	ppm	0.11	ND - 0.16
Boron	ppm	0.16	0.14 - 0.59
Bromide	ppm	<0.05	ND - 0.22
Calcium	ppm	56	49 - 100
Chloride	ppm	286	200 - 410
Conductivity	µmhos/cm@25°C	1380	1140 - 2190
Hardness	ppm	238	210 - 450
Hardness	grains /gallon	13.9	12.3 - 26.3
Hexavalent chromium	ppb	< 10.0	ND
Iron	ppm	<0.05	ND - 0.68
Magnesium	ppm	23	21 - 50
Manganese	ppm	<0.001	ND - 0.02
Nickel	ppb	<5.0	ND
pH	pH units	7.4	6.8 - 8.0
Potassium	ppm	5.4	4.1 - 6.5
Radon (2008)	pCi/L	346	ND - 688
Silica	ppm	15.1	9.8 - 32
Silver	ppb	<0.25	ND
Sodium	ppm	185	140 - 340
Sulfate	ppm	106	61 - 170
Temperature	°F	77	60 - 91
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	751	590 - 1200
Zinc	ppm	<0.02	ND - 0.027

**Radon** - Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in groundwater and is released from water into the air during household use. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. For additional information, call Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) at (602) 255-4845 or contact EPA's Radon Hotline (800) 767-7236.

**If other people, such as tenants, residents, patients, students, or employees, receive water from you, it is important that you provide this report to them by posting it in a conspicuous location or by direct hand or mail delivery.**

If you have questions about the information provided in this report or about your tap water, call the City of Tempe at (480) 350-4311.

Residents are invited to address the Tempe City Council about water quality issues during regularly scheduled Council meetings. The Council meetings are usually every other Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The schedule and agendas may be found online at [www.tempe.gov/clerk](http://www.tempe.gov/clerk) or by calling (480) 350-4311. For additional information, visit Tempe's web site at [www.tempe.gov/waterquality](http://www.tempe.gov/waterquality), visit [www.tapintoquality.com](http://www.tapintoquality.com) or see information provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at [www.water.epa.gov/drink/](http://www.water.epa.gov/drink/).



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