Why are there Contaminants in my Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can contain a variety of contaminants. Contaminants can come from natural sources, such as the earth and the surface of the land or through human activity. Natural contaminants include minerals, bacteria, viruses, and organic compounds such as pesticides and herbicides.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring, result from nuclear facilities, or be the result of soil and gas production.

In order to ensure that water is safe to drink, EPA has established regulations to limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The EPA requires public water systems to periodically monitor for contaminants that could be present in their water. The results of these tests, along with other information about the water system, are reported in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

Arsenic

Levels of arsenic are becoming better understood due to the efforts to identify and control arsenic in drinking water. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that is found in rocks, soils, and water around the world. Arsenic can be released into the water from natural sources, such as rocks and soil, or from industrial activities, such as mining, smelting, and chlorination of water. Arsenic can also be introduced into the water supply from domestic activities, such as the use of arsenic-treated wood for construction and the use of arsenic-based wood preservatives.

Iron and Other Metals

Iron and other metals are naturally occurring elements that can be released into the water from natural sources, such as rocks and soil, or from industrial activities, such as mining, smelting, and chlorination of water. Arsenic can also be introduced into the water supply from domestic activities, such as the use of arsenic-treated wood for construction and the use of arsenic-based wood preservatives.

Disinfection By-products

Disinfection by-products are formed when disinfectants, such as chlorine, react with organic materials in the water. Disinfection by-products can form during the treatment of water, as well as during the storage and distribution of water. Disinfection by-products can include substances such as trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5).

Leaded Pipe

Lead is a heavy metal that is commonly found in plumbing systems, particularly in older homes and buildings. Lead can enter the water supply when lead-containing solder or lead-based paint is used in the construction or repair of plumbing systems.

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City of Santa Fe 2008 Water Quality Table

Sources of Supply
The SDCW is served by three distinct sources of supply. The 17,000 acre Buckman Well Field consists of 13 active wells located near the Santa Fe River and is the City’s primary source. The Buckman Well Field is mostly located in close proximity to the Santa Fe River, and consists of 13 active wells located within 1 mile of the Santa Fe River. The Buckman Well Field consists of 13 active wells located within the Rio Grande, approximately 17 miles northwest of Santa Fe. All three sources are treated with chlorine which is used for disinfection and antimicrobial pretreatment reducers. Turbidity is added to the water supply to benefit the community as recommended by public health professionals.

Do I need to take special precautions?
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as patients 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 care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on the Web site. Immuno-compromised persons should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA’s CCR and drinking water treatment plant reports provide information on calendar year 2008 water quality. In 2008, SDCW drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water quality limits. The report contains additional details about where your water comes from, how it is treated, and how it compares to standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies.

Notes:
N: Sampled Qtrly/2008
Violations:
No
Water Quality:
Typically low
Typical Source
Naturally present in the environment.
Surface Water Assessment and its Availability
The 2008 SDCW Water Quality Report is provided annually and contains additional information on safe drinking water
Source Water Assessment and its Availability
The City of Santa Fe’s Sangre De Cristo Water Division (SDCW) is pleased to provide the 2008 Water Quality Report. As a safe drinking water provider, the City is committed to providing water that is safe to drink and is free of contaminants. The report is intended to answer questions about the water you drink and contains information on calendar year 2008 water quality. In 2008, SDCW drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water quality limits. The report contains additional details about where your water comes from, how it is treated, and how it compares to standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies.

Table: 2008 Water Quality Report

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<thead>
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<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Buckman</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
<th>City Wellfield</th>
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<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidium</td>
<td>ND</td>
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2008 Water Quality Report

City of Santa Fe Water Division
P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504

Customer Service (505) 995-6333
Administration (505) 995-4502

2008 Water Quality Report