



## Protect your water resources?

We are all very lucky to be able to turn on a tap and have an adequate supply of fresh, clean water. Having a safe and dependable water supply is indeed a privilege not found everywhere in the world. Salt Lake City Public Utilities management and staff diligently protect our water resources, actively address water treatment, and conscientiously assure the safe transport of our water through miles of pipes to your home. However, everyone, including you, is responsible to help in these efforts. Keeping our source water supply clean helps to avoid the high costs of advanced water treatment technologies. High levels of pollution in the raw water would require advanced treatment to produce the quality of drinking water we enjoy. A higher level of treatment would require additional equipment at our facilities along with added energy needs and chemicals to operate which would impact your water bills. Costs for maintaining our current water treatment facilities

## Watershed

Our source waters are the mountain streams from the protected watersheds on the east bench of our community. These sources are isolated from industrial activities and wastewater discharges which puts them at low risk of contamination. However, residential, commercial, and recreational activities in the mountains have the potential to pollute the streams.



Emphasis has been placed on avoiding pollution in our watersheds. "Keep It Pure", our watershed logo, has helped to impress on our community the importance of protecting our watersheds and water resources. When pressures are placed on our watersheds, an educated community is a valuable partner in holding the line on projects and activities that have the potential to impact water quality. This community awareness has helped maintain our water resources.

Invasive plants also take a toll on our canyons. An invasive plant community, once established, spreads quickly and takes over the landscape, keeping all other plants out of the area. Frequently they are inedible for the wildlife, take up more water than natives, are shallow rooted and encourage erosion, and since they age and die off at the same time, they increase fire danger. Even using all available techniques—mechanical, biological, and chemical—it can take years of concentrated effort to destroy an invasive population.

You can help! Follow the rules, stay on established trails and leave your pets at home. Make sure that you do not bring in seed from other areas that would infest our canyons: clean off your shoes, clothing, and also clean your bike between canyons. Help us undo some of the impacts we have already had on the canyons by participating with weed pulls!

and processes go up with economic conditions, help to contain costs by preserving the quality of our raw water supply. Protect and respect the mountains and streams that produce the water we drink.

## Ground Water Aquifers

Our surface water supply depends on mountain stream flows. Stream flows are determined by the amount of snow the winter produces and the water formed when it melts. Once again this year, we have less than average snow accumulation, and our stored reservoir water supply is also limited. If the summer is hot and dry, we may need to turn on deep wells earlier in the season to meet our community's water needs. The weather dictates our supply and our demand, with water demand highest when supply is at its minimum. When supply of snowmelt drops off and the weather is hot and dry, the use of water especially for irrigation increases.

The quality of our ground water is impacted by what happens on the ground above the supply. City zoning ordinance, 21A.34.060, addressing source protection, was adopted to help protect our ground water resources. What you do on your private property can impact the ground water. Never dispose of materials on the ground. Unwanted materials not suitable for the trash collection, such as herbicides, fertilizers, and household chemicals like drain or oven cleaners, can be taken to the household hazardous waste (HHW) facility at the landfill, 6030 W. California Ave or to neighborhood HHW collection events. This year, the Neighborhood HHW collections in Sugarhouse Park will be held on June 6, July 3, and August 1, from 7am to 10am. At these events, you can also dispose of electronic wastes, like TVs, computers, printers, monitors, and cell phones and Salt Lake City Police will be present to collect unwanted drugs for destruction.

## Health Alert

Some individuals are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general community. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as people with organ transplants, HIV/AIDS or other immune-compromised disorders, as well as some elderly and infants, can be particularly vulnerable. These people should seek the advice of their health-care providers for special precautions.

EPA/CDC guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling **800.426.4791** or online at [www.epa.gov.safewater](http://www.epa.gov.safewater).

## Attencion!

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Affiliations

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities is a member of the American Water Works Association, the American Water Works Research Foundation, the Partnership for Safe Water, Utah Water Quality Alliance, and the Salt Lake County Groundwater Coalition. Public Utilities participates in the QualServe Program.



**SALT LAKE CITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
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## Weather and the Future of Water Supply in Utah

The winter of 2012/2013 was another season of low snow accumulation. These drought-like conditions contribute to concerns for our current water supply, but also bring up questions about the potential for significant changes in the climate we have become accustomed to. In the dialogue about global climate change, the consensus is that more study and modeling are required to better understand the range of possible impacts to our water resources. This area has historically gone through periods of drought and we may well be entering into another drought cycle now; however, it is difficult to determine the actual cause of these weather conditions. Regardless, increasing temperatures and reduced snowpack with less subsequent runoff, could lead to loss of or change in native vegetation. That change could increase soil erosion which would further impact available water quantity and quality. Public Utilities is engaged with national cities, federal agencies, universities, and others in an attempt to understand and prepare for potential long term climate changes and to identify how to adapt to them. Many of the conservation ethics we are adopting today will be among strategies that will benefit us under any ultimate climate change conditions.

## Pharmaceutical Waste: Disposing of Unwanted Medications

Prescription and over the counter medicines should not be flushed down the toilet. Our wastewater facilities do not have the ability to treat for these compounds, so they are released back into the environment. Dispose of these products through the collection boxes in the Pioneer Police District Office, 1040 West 700 South or later this summer at the new Public Safety Complex, west of the main library. There are also special police collection events throughout the year. Materials disposed of at these sites are incinerated at hazardous waste facilities. For additional disposal sites and collection events go to: <http://www.medicationdisposal.utah.gov>

**SALT LAKE CITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Drink Up!



**2013 CONSUMER**  
**CONFIDENCE REPORT**

## What about fluoride?

Fluoride is added to our water supply with a finished water goal of 0.7 mg/l. This level of fluoride has been found to help prevent tooth decay. Please check with your doctor for specifics on fluoride intake for your infant.

## How can I participate?

We encourage your participation in decisions that affect our communities' drinking water. Regular Public Utilities Advisory Committee meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 a.m. at 1530 South West Temple. Your attendance is welcome.

## Is home treatment necessary?

Your water meets all the EPA requirements as it comes from the tap. Additional treatment for aesthetic qualities is an option, not a necessity. If you install treatment devices, you are responsible for their operation and maintenance. You can make your water unsafe by not taking proper care of your at-tap system.

## What is our water hardness?

Water hardness is a measure of mineral content of the water. Our water is about 13 grains per gallon hardness, mostly composed of calcium carbonate. Hardness is an esthetic issue; it makes cleaning harder, and leaves behind spots.

## What's wrong with my dishwasher?

A ban on phosphate in automatic dishwashing detergent was legislated in 2010. Removing phosphate from automatic dishwashing detergent allows hard water scale to form, so you may see more calcium carbonate-caused film and spots on your dishware. To help reduce this impact, use a rinsing agent or add vinegar to the rinse cycle, do not heat dry your dishes, and set your water heater below 120 degrees.

## Is the 8th South-5th East artesian well water safe to drink?

While this well meets all EPA requirements and is considered safe to drink, we have detected low levels of perchlorate, a compound that may be naturally occurring or related to explosives manufacturing. The levels detected are well below what EPA considers a concern but the compound is not currently regulated. For more information visit [www.slch2o.com](http://www.slch2o.com).

## Worried about radon?

To order a \$7 test kit for your home call 800-324-5928 X 42 or order on line at [www.radon.utah.gov](http://www.radon.utah.gov) click on "Order a test kit". You will be directed to a contractor for the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control, Alpha Energy Lab, which provides the test kit and analysis.

## Is bottled water better?

Bottled water is more expensive and less environmentally friendly than tap water. Being regulated by different agencies, the FDA requirements on bottled water are less stringent than the EPA regulations governing public water supplies. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: **800.426.4791**.

## How can I get a private well tested?

Private wells are not tested by the City, they are your responsibility. Testing services are available at local analytical laboratories. A minimally test includes bacteriology and nitrates. Keep safe, test your well every three years.

Our water supply complies with regulations established by the EPA and the State of Utah. Federal law requires that these regulations are constantly updated, investigating the need to address newly identified contaminants, lowering existing limits on others or updating regulations. These investigations involve years of research, and provide us with the best opportunity to identify new concerns, get expert scientific information on current rules and their amendments and give systems tools to help meet the goals.

As treatment techniques, instrumentation and scientific wisdom expand we will continue to see major changes in how we approach our water. The one thing that won't change is that our utility will make every effort to provide you with the best water quality based on the most current regulations and scientific information. Our community's water health and safety are our primary concern. We continue to support and contribute to ongoing research efforts with the EPA, AWWA and local universities. As the industry makes significant progress on water quality issues, we will address them and implement any changes necessary to continue to serve you the best water quality possible. Our main interest is to provide you safe and reliable drinking water, at a reasonable price. Hopefully we have gained your confidence. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our office.



Florence Reynolds

Water Quality and Treatment Administrator  
Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities

# 2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT\*

	Drinking Water Standards	TREATED SURFACE WATER SOURCES						Range on SLC Wells	Source of Contaminant
		Parleys	Big Cottonwood	City Creek Canyon	Metro	Jordan Valley			
Antimony	6 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-0.5	Erosion of natural deposits	
Arsenic	10 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	2.0	ND-2.3	Erosion of natural deposits	
Barium	2000 ppb	70	42	27	27	59	15-124	Erosion of natural deposits	
Beryllium	4 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Discharge from coal-burning factories	
Cadmium	5 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.04	ND	Corrosion of galvanized pipes	
Chromium	100 ppb	ND	ND	ND	3.8	ND	ND	Discharge from steel and pulp mills	
Cyanide	200 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-3	Discharge from steel/metal factories	
Fluoride	4000 ppb	690	673	730	697	700	200-600	Erosion of natural deposits	
Mercury	2 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.02	ND	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nickel	100 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate	10 ppm	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.9-4.9	Fertilizer runoff, septic tanks	
Nitrite	1 ppm	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-0.03	Fertilizer runoff, septic tanks	
Selenium	50 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.4	1-4.6	Mine Discharge	
Thallium	2 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Leaching for ore processing	
<b>TURBIDITY (Clarity) NTU's</b>									
Finished Water Yearly Average		0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.08		Soil runoff	
<b>RADIONUCLIDES (Picocuries/L)</b>									
Gross Alpha	15	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.5		Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 228		ND	ND	ND	2.3	0.1		Erosion of natural deposits	
Calcium	ur-ppm	85.9	47.9	62.3	123	86.4	36.9-131	Erosion of natural deposits	
Hardness as CaCO3	ur-ppm	268	188	228	147	143	146-496	Erosion of natural deposits	
grains/gallon	calc.	15.7	11	13.3	7.9	8.4	8-29	Erosion of natural deposits	
Non-Carbonate	calc.	63	44	18	41.5	31	28-231	Erosion of natural deposits	
Alkalinity as CaCo3	ur-ppm	205	144	210	111	112	118-265	Erosion of natural deposits	
Magnesium	ur-ppm	13	16.6	17.6	14	7.6	13.1-44.7	Erosion of natural deposits	
Potassium	ur-ppm	1.4	1.3	0.6	ND	1.7	1.4-4.2	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium	ur-ppm	48.7	16	8.2	35	10.4	5.9-74	Erosion of natural deposits	
Specific Conductance	-umhos/cm	669	210	379	368	337	253-865	Erosion of natural deposits	
pH (in Units)		6.5-8.5	8.3	8.1	8.4	7.8	7-8.2	Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS</b>									
Aluminum	200 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Treatment chemicals	
Iron	300 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-170	Erosion of natural deposits	
Manganese	50 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	3	ND-2.9	Erosion of natural deposits	
Zinc	500 ppb	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-90	Erosion of natural deposits	
Chloride	250 ppm	98	22	11	30	19	12-180	Erosion of natural deposits	
Phosphate	ur-ppb	10	ND	ND	ND	ND	10-700	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sulfate	ur-ppm	29	43	12	35	36	29-290	Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Dissolved Solids	ur-ppm	438	258	264	221	198	194-744	Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>ADDITIONAL DATA</b>									
Molybdenum	ur-ppb	ND	ND	ND		0.8	ND	Erosion of natural deposits	
Bromide	ur-ppm	0.7	0.1	0.06	ND	0.1	0.01-0.08	Erosion of natural deposits	
Ammonia-N	ur-ppm	ND	0.3	ND			0.2-0.3		
UV-254	ur-1/cm	0.04	ND	0.02	0.02	0.028	0.02-0.03	Decomposition of organic material	
TOC	ur-ppm	1.6	ND	0.5	1.6	2.5	ND-0.9	Decomposition of organic material	
PCE	5 ppb	ND	ND	ND			ND	Dry cleaning solvent	
<b>DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPLIANCE</b>									
Microbials			# Samples	% positive					
Total Coliform	<5%		2328	0.08%				Feces of humans and animals	
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>									
			Max**	Min**					
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	43	50	41	15.5	25.8		By-product of chlorination	
Total Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	34	41	22	13.6	19		By-product of chlorination	
<b>LEAD/COPPER STUDY</b>									
	AL	# Samples	90% before	90% after flushing					
Lead	15 ppb	50	5.3	1.1				Corrosion of household plumbing	
Copper	1300 ppb	50	283	67.4				Corrosion of household plumbing	
<b>HOW TO READ THE CHART</b>									
Our water is tested for its safety. The chart lists the most recent test results for the facilities listed and indicates the most likely source of the contaminant. The well data is a range of lowest and highest levels for all 23 wells. Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.									
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level					<b>ppb</b>	Parts per billion (ug/l, 1 penny in \$10 million)		
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units (turbidity is cloudiness)					<b>TT</b>	Treatment technique, method		
<b>UR</b>	Unregulated, no EPA standard set					<b>UR</b>	Unregulated, no EPA standard set		
<b>pci/l</b>	Picocuries per liter (radioactivity unit)					<b>ND</b>	Non detected (less than the method can see)		
<b>ppm</b>	Parts per million (mg/l, 1 penny in \$10,000)								
*	Latest analysis provided is 2012 data. Lead and copper results, 2012.					■	Not all parameters are analyzed every year, some are not required to be analyzed.		
**	Salt Lake City locational running average					■	Since 2003, as a result of public vote, fluoride has been added to the drinking water.		
■	Volatile organics, herbicides, and pesticides, are analyzed for but not detected in the finished supply.								