

**St. Charles Parish  
Department of Waterworks**

**Quality  
On Tap!**

Our Commitment



Our Profession

# St. Charles Waterworks Awards



- **Best Tasting Water in the South Central Section of the Louisiana Conference (7 Parishes)(8 Sections)**
- **Best Tasting Water in Louisiana**
- **Best Tasting Water AWWA Southwest Section 2008 and 2009 (Includes Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas)**
- **Competed in AWWA's Best of the Best Water Taste Test in 2009 (San Diego) and 2010 (Chicago)**
- **Water Fluoridation Quality Award from U.S. Center for Disease Control**

# Water is necessary for Life

## Mission Statement

- *To efficiently provide a sufficient supply of potable water and water for fire protection to the citizens of St. Charles Parish*



- *Water is critical to survival!*
- *However... Water is **not** valued!*



# Until...

## This is how toxic Flint's water really is

By Christopher Ingraham January 15

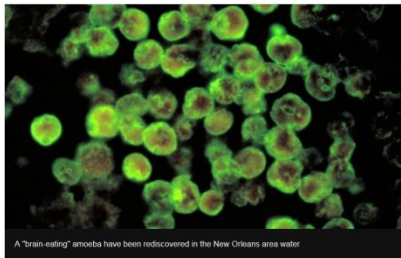


Michigan governor asks for federal aid in water crisis

The city of Flint, Mich., is in the midst of a water crisis several years in the making. The city cut out of Detroit's water supply and began drawing water from the Flint River in

## 'Brain-eating amoeba' found in water supply near New Orleans

© 31 July 2015 | US & Canada



A 'brain-eating' amoeba have been rediscovered in the New Orleans area water.

US health officials have confirmed the presence of a 'brain-eating' amoeba in the water supply of several communities near New Orleans.

### FBI joins Flint water investigation



FOX 2 5:02 34°

f t G+ t

## Here's why DHH keeps finding brain-eating amoebas in drinking water



The state Department of Health and Hospitals said Monday, Aug. 31, 2015, that it found brain-eating amoeba in Terrebonne Parish's water system. This file photo from Sept. 20, 2015, shows a U.S. General Parish resident being flushed at the corner of Caliban and Mustang Dr. after a deadly brain-eating amoeba was found in the system. (Ted Jackson, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archive) (Ted Jackson, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archive)

By Kevin Litten, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune  
Email the author | Follow on Twitter

Print  
Email



## Elevated lead levels at 30 Newark schools

### Lead in water



FOX 5 4:59 71°

#### ELEVATED LEVELS OF LEAD FOUND IN NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOL WATER FOUNTAINS

Some students in New Jersey's largest school districts are being told not to drink of the water because of elevated levels of lead





# St. Joseph



- Located in Tensas Parish (NE LA)
- Population 1,176
- System 90 years old
- Funding of approximately \$8mil to fully replace distribution mains being withheld
- Latest testing has passed all primary drinking water standards
- High iron content

A screenshot of a CNN news article. The headline reads "Would you drink this? When brown tap water is deemed legal and safe". The byline is "By Holly Yan and Tessa Carletta, CNN" and the update time is "Updated 1:44 PM ET, Thu February 25, 2016". The article features a video player showing a hand holding a glass of brown water. To the right, there are social media icons and a "Top stories" section with links to "Mitt Romney gives up" and "Mom sentenced to prison for killing disabled daughter". Below that is a "Lendingtree" widget with a table of interest rates.

1.21% APR		
Lendingtree	Calculate New Payment	
30 Year Fixed	3.35%	3.42% APR
15 Year Fixed	2.75%	2.79% APR
5/1 ARM	2.63%	3.21% APR
Refinance	\$300k	\$1,205/mo
Home Purchase	\$150k	\$650/mo

When brown tap water is deemed legal and safe 01:43



St. Joseph resident Garrett Boyko shows what came out of his bathtub faucet in late January.

"The water is just terrible and unbearable," Fields said. "I can't quite understand why we have such trouble here in St. Joe."

Concerns about water safety escalated nationwide after reports of lead poisoning from the tap



# Flint “Lead” Crisis

- Started in 2012 when city/state officials switched to the Flint River to save money
- Corrosive water / Lack of corrosion control
- Bacteriological violations
- Lead leached from service lines and household plumbing
- Customers complained about quality
- Michigan DEQ and USEPA became aware of lead exceedance
- No customers were informed
- Political parties blamed each other for the failures
- 6.1 million lead service lines nationwide
- Average cost to replace \$5,000.00 per line or \$30 billion



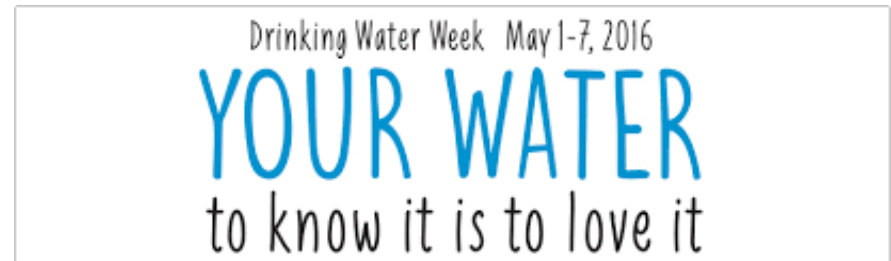
# St. Charles Parish Lead Testing

- **St. Charles Water District #2 WB (2013)**  
**(Scheduled for summer of 2016)**
    - **10,001-50K System Size**
  - **Standard requires 60 every 6 months**
  - **Reduced monitoring = 30 triennially**
  
  - **Lead – Range from 0 to 7 ppb**
  - **(12-0 ppb; 17-1 ppb; 1-7 ppb)**
    - **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile for lead 1 ppb**
  - **Copper- Range from 0 to 0.6 ppm**
    - **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile for copper 0.4 ppm**
  - **Compliance is 15 ppb and 1.3 ppm respectively**
- **St. Charles Water District #1 EB (2104)**  
**(Scheduled for summer of 2017)**
    - **10,001-50K System Size**
  - **Standard requires 60 every 6 months**
  - **Reduced monitoring = 30 triennially**
  
  - **Lead – Range from 0 to 19 ppb**
  - **(17-0 ppb; 5-1 ppb; 4-2 ppb; 3-3 ppb; 1-19 ppb)**
    - **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile for lead 3 ppb**
  - **Copper- Range from 0 to 0.6 ppm**
    - **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile for copper 0.3 ppm**
  - **Compliance is 15 ppb and 1.3 ppm respectively**



# St. Charles Parish Lead Testing

If present, elevated levels of lead 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. St. Charles Waterworks 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, 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>



<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>





# St. Charles Parish Lead Testing

## Take Measures to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water at Home

**Flush your pipes before drinking:** The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, "flush" your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get. This could take as little as five to thirty seconds if there has been recent heavy water use such as showering or toilet flushing. Otherwise, it could take two minutes or longer. Your water utility will inform you if longer flushing times are needed to respond to local conditions.

**Only use cold water for eating and drinking:** Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. Run cold water until it becomes as cold as it can get.

**Note that boiling water will NOT get rid of lead contamination.**

### Use water filters or treatment devices:

Many water filters and water treatment devices are certified by independent organizations for effective lead reduction. Devices that are not designed to remove lead will not work. Verify the claims of manufacturers by checking with independent certifying organizations that provide lists of treatment devices they have certified:



<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>



# Other Water Quality Parameters

LISTED ABOVE are contaminants detected in St. Charles Parish drinking water. All are below allowed levels. Not listed are the hundreds of other contaminants for which we tested that were not detected.

In the tables above, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions below.

## \* DEFINITIONS

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

BD - Below Detection

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's 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 the 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

SPECIAL INFO AVAILABLE 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, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

CUSTOMER VIEWS WELCOME: If you are interested in learning more about the water department and water quality, call our Customer Service office at (985) 783-5110. Contact Dustin Zeringue for individual or group guided water treatment plant tours. School groups are welcomed. The St. Charles Parish Council meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Parish Courthouse in Hahnville. All sessions are open to the public.

# 2015 Water Quality Report

The purpose of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule is to raise customers' awareness of where their drinking water comes from, the quality of their drinking water, what it takes to deliver water to their home and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

The CCR will be available to view at the following websites by June 30, 2016.

The St. Charles Parish East Bank Report may be viewed at: [www.scpwaterqualityeast.com](http://www.scpwaterqualityeast.com)

The St. Charles Parish West Bank Report may be viewed at: [www.scpwaterqualitywest.com](http://www.scpwaterqualitywest.com)

If you would like to request a paper copy, please call Rachelle Johnson at (985) 331-3760 or email [rjohnson@scpwater.org](mailto:rjohnson@scpwater.org)



# Take-Away Message

- Water is critical.....  
And valuable
- Treatment of water to “safe” and “aesthetically pleasing” standards is not “free”



# St. Charles Parish Department of Waterworks

## Questions?

