

2018 Test Results

In order to be better informed and prepared for emerging water issues, Huntsville Utilities has begun voluntarily testing for pharmaceuticals, personal care products, endocrine disruptors, perchlorate, PFOA and PFOS in the water supply. The test results to date have shown that minute amounts of only a few of these products are being detected in the water supply. It is important to note that there is no evidence that these compounds pose any risk at the trace levels detected. Huntsville Utilities plans to continue to monitor these compounds to determine what action, if any, is necessary.

Many of these compounds are thought to have been in the source water for years though it is now possible, with the advancement in testing technologies, to detect more substances at much lower levels than ever before. Parts per million has been the norm in the water industry for measuring compounds but as technology has improved, the measurements are now being routinely measured in parts per billion and even as low as parts per trillion. To help illustrate just how small a measurement a part per billion is, imagine one drop of water in a railroad tanker car or 1 second in 32 years. A point of reference for a part per trillion can be illustrated as the equivalent of one square inch in 250 square miles or a few drops in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Listed below are results from testing on our source waters:

Compounds detected during testing

	South Parkway	Southwest	Lincoln Dallas	Southeast
Galaxolide	Not Detected	*12ppt	Not Detected	Not Detected
Cotinine	**0.003ppb	0.003ppb	Not Detected	.003ppb
DEET	0.006ppb	0.007ppb	Not Detected	.006ppb
Acesulfame-K	0.21ppb	0.24ppb	0.03ppb	0.18ppb
Carbamazepine	0.001ppb	0.001ppb	Not Detected	.001ppb
Perchlorate	0.24ppb	0.21ppb	0.62ppb	0.25ppb
Tris (chloropropyl) phosphate	0.03ppb	0.03ppb	Not Detected	.03ppb
Sucralose	0.151ppb	0.169ppb	0.092ppb	0.156ppb

*-parts per trillion

**-parts per billion

Galaxolide: Synthetic fragrance in cosmetics, cleaning agents, detergents, perfumes, etc.

Cotinine: A metabolite of nicotine.

DEET: The active ingredient in insect repellent.

Acesulfame-K: Calorie free sugar substitute & marketed under the trade names Sunett and Sweet One.

Carbamazepine: An anticonvulsant and mood stabilizing drug.

Perchlorate: A salt that exists naturally in some fertilizers and because of the large amounts of oxygen in its chemical makeup, can be used as an oxidizer to help solid rocket fuel burn.

Tris (chloropropyl) phosphate: Flame retardant; commercially used mixture.

Sucralose: Artificial sweetener and sugar substitute.

Pentachlorophenol	Carbadox	Sulfadimethoxine	Gemfibrozil
Phenylphenol	Dexamethasone	Sulfamethazine	Ibuprofen
Tetrabromobisphenol A	Diazepam	Sulfamethizole	Levothyroxine (Synthroid)
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	Diltiazem	Sulfamethoxazole	Naproxen
Diethylstilbestrol (DES)	Erythromycin	Sulfasalazine	Penicillin G
17alpha-Estradiol	Fluoxetine (Prozac)	Sulfathiazole	Penicillin V
17beta-Estradiol	Iopromide	Theobromine	Prednisone
Estriol	Lincomycin	Trimethoprim	Salicylic acid
Estrone	Monensin	Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate	Theophylline
17alpha-Ethynyl estradiol	Narasin	Tylosin	Triclocarban
cis-Testosterone	Nicotine	Virginiamyxin M1	Triclosan
trans-Testosterone	Oleandomycin	Bezafibrate	Progesterone
Acetaminophen	Paraxanthine	Chloramphenicol	Tonalid
Meprobamate			