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What Can We Expect to Find in Our Drinking Water?

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:

- A. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- B. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which 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**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- D. **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- E. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. **The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

How This Report Shows Our Water Quality Results and What They Mean

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean to you. It also provides important information about your water and how it relates to your health. The information in this report is based primarily on 2024 facts and figures. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not require us to perform all tests every year. When necessary, some data was obtained from prior years. As directed by the agencies that regulate our industry, only values from these tests that exceeded specified criteria are included. We will notify you immediately if there is any reason for concern.

The City of Palm Coast Utility Department operates the water treatment and distribution system serving Palm Coast. Our water source is groundwater drawn through sixty-six wells from the Confined Surficial and the Floridan Aquifers and is treated through a complex multi-step water treatment process that includes lime softening, filtration, membrane softening, forced draft aeration, corrosion control and chloramination for disinfection purposes at three different facilities. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed a Source Water Assessment for the Palm Coast watershed. The State has determined that eighteen of our sixty-nine wells have a low to moderate susceptibility to contamination based on their proximity to the twenty-two potential sources of contamination that were last evaluated in 2024. For additional information, please visit the DEP website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

The following information will assist you in making adjustments to your water softener, washer or dishwasher. The average hardness in the Palm Coast water is:

Total Hardness: 100ppm = 5.8 grains/gal.
Calcium Hardness: 80ppm = 4.7 grains/gal.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, please contact your **City of Palm Coast Utility Representative at 386-986-2360**. You may also visit the **City of Palm Coast website at www.palmcoastgov.com** or call the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about your drinking water.

How Do I Read This?

It’s easy. The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. The column marked “Level Detected” shows the highest results from the last time tests were performed. “Likely Sources” shows where this substance usually originates. Descriptions below explain other important details. In this table you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms, we’ve provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.*

ND: *Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.*

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): *One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.*

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l): *One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.*

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or 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.*

N/A: *Means not applicable.*

2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

The City of Palm Coast Utility Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024 for the **City of Palm Coast – PWS ID # 2180863**. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	04/23	N	0.0047	ND – 0.0042	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	04/23	N	1.5	20 – 69	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Stage 1 Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Product							
For bromate, chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine and Chloramines (ppm)	01/24 – 12/24	N	3.33	0.6-5.1	MRDLG = 4.0	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Periodically throughout the year the distribution system is maintained by conversion of Chloramine to Free Chlorine disinfection for additional microbiological control							
Stage 2 Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Product							
If during 2024, the system had only annual or triennial results and these results were at or below the MCL, report the highest result as the level detected and the range of individual sample results as the range of results.							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected		MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	05/24	N	24.14		N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	02/24	N	23.35		N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	Sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	06/22	N	0.078	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	06/22	N	1.21	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Iron (ppm)	04/23	Y	0.73	ND – 0.73	N/A	0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. We have completed an initial service line inventory, and it is available for review by contacting Garann Hopkins at (386) 986-2511 or ghopkins@palmcoastgov.com.

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead action level at 15 ppb. For a water system to be in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review by contacting Garann Hopkins at (386) 986-2511 or ghopkins@palmcoastgov.com.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Palm Coast is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Eugene McAdams (386) 986-2373. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer under-going 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/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).