

Important Health Information

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, 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 (800-426-4791).

A Special Note About Lead in Drinking Water

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 Fort Walton Beach 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 a 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 the City of FWB Utilities at 850-833-9613. 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>.

The City performs lead testing at 30 designated sites every three years. The next round of sampling is scheduled for 2025. Individual results are delivered to each customer from where the sample was collected. All results are on file at the Utilities Field office located at 7 Hollywood Blvd. NW. You may request a copy of lead testing results by calling 850-833-9613.

The City conducted a detailed service line inventory which included inspecting every service connection within our system during our meter replacement project. No lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines were identified during the inventory. Detailed records are on file at the Utilities Field office located at 7 Hollywood Blvd. NW. You may request a copy of the inspection records associated with any address by calling 850-833-9613.

Source Water Assessment

In 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 26 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [SWAPP \(state.fl.us\)](http://SWAPP.state.fl.us).

Community Participation

You are welcome to attend Fort Walton Beach regularly scheduled Council meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Contact the City Clerk at 850-833-9511 to confirm day, time and location of meeting.

Substances that might be in 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, which 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 (800-426-4791).



FORT WALTON BEACH

2024 Annual WATER QUALITY Report

PWS ID# 1460144

Recipient

FDEP 2020 Plant Operation Excellence Award
FDEP 2023 Plant Operation Excellence Award



WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR DRINKING WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. The Water Treatment staff works around the clock to meet our goal to provide you with a high quality safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

During the past year we have taken thousands of water samples to ensure the quality of your drinking water. The table attached shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. In those cases, the most recent sample data are included along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The City of Fort Walton Beach 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, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

If you have any questions about this report or water quality in the City of Fort Walton Beach, please contact the Water Operations Supervisor at 850-833-9613.

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From And How Is It Purified?

The City of Fort Walton Beach's water system processed approximately 967 million gallons of water in 2024. Our water comes from eight deep wells drawing ground water from the Floridan Aquifer, which provides a very high quality water source. With the excellent water quality of the Floridan Aquifer, the only treatments required to meet Federal and State standards are aeration and chlorination.

2024 WATER TESTING RESULTS							
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	April 2023	No	0.35	0.0038-0.35	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	April 2023	No	0.94	0.46-0.94	4	5	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm The City does not add additional fluoride.
Nitrate(as Nitrogen) (ppm)	April 2024	No	0.27	ND – 0.27	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	April 2023	No	120	43-120	n/a	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Jan & May 2017	No	2.7	ND-2.7	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 +228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Jan & May 2017	No	1.49	0.4-1.49	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) Stage 1	Jan-Dec 2024	No	0.93	0.75-1.17	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Halocyclic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Oct 2023 - July 2024	No	19.02	ND -31.5	n/a	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	Oct 2023 – July 2024	No	41.78	ND -39.9	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 (Yes/No)	90 th Percentile Result	No. Exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCGL	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	June 2023	No	0.1	0 of 30	ND – 0.33	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	June 2023	No	1.7	0 of 30	ND – 4.0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

In the table to the left you will find many terms and abbreviations, some of which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

n/a: not applicable

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 one million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l): one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

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.

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.