FORT WALTON BEACH

2013Annual WATER QUALITY Report

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2012
PWS ID# 1460144

We are proud to report that the water provided to the City of Fort Walton Beach Water System meets or exceeds all Federal and State Water-Quality Standards.

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 in order 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, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Data obtained before January 1, 2012, 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 Tim Bolduc, Engineering & Utility Services Director at 833-9607.

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

The City of Fort Walton Beach's water system processed approximately 869 million gallons of water in 2012. Our water comes from nine 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.

Community Participation

You are welcome to attended Fort Walton Beach regularly scheduled Council meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Contact the City Clerk at 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).

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

If present, elevated levels of lead can 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. The City of Fort Walton Beach 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, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking 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

Source Water Assessment

In 2012 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 seven potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

2012 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*
Fluoride (ppm)	Mar & Apr 2011	No	1.2	0.46-1.2	4	4.0	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
Barium (ppm)	Mar & Apr 2011	No	0.35	0.0051-0.35	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Mar &Apr 2011	No	120	36-120	n/a	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	Aug 2012	No	0.28	ND-0.28	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	Mar & Apr 2011	No	2.2	ND-2.2	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	Mar & Apr 2011	No	3.1	ND-3.1	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder.
Nickel (ppb)	Mar & Apr 2011	No	2.4	ND-2.4	NA	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.

RADIOACTIVE 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*
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	April 2008	No	1.3	ND-1.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

STAGE 1 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)	Jan-Dec 2012	No	0.72	0.49-0.87	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Jul 2012	No	4.9	4.3-5.3	n/a	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	Jul 2012	No	19.8	13.6-30.9	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)*	*90th Percentile Result*	*No. Exceeding the AL*	*MCLG*	*AL (Action Level)*	*Likely Source of Contamination*
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun-Sept 2011	No	0.21	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun-Sept 2011	No	4.80	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	*Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)*	**MCL Violation (Yes/No)**	**Highest Monthly Number**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	*Likely Source of Contamination*
Total Coliform Bacteria	Jan-Dec 2012	No	1	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

In the table 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:

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.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): an important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

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.