

2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY OF PALATKA – PWSID# 2544260

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Shawn Bruneau at: 386-329-0144.

WATER SOURCE AND TREATMENT

Our water source is ground water from 5 wells that draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Our water is treated with hydrogen peroxide to help reduce disinfection by-products, aeration to remove hydrogen sulfide, polyphosphates for corrosion control, and chlorine for disinfection purposes.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

In 2024, the 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. A search of the data sources indicated 3 potential sources of contamination near our wells with a low to medium susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at:

<https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT

The City of Palatka routinely monitors 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. 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.

LEAD SAMPLE RESULTS AVAILABILITY

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead levels. 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 Shawn Bruneau at: 386-329-0144

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. Ours is available for review by contacting Shawn Bruneau at: 386-329-0144.

WATER SOURCES AND CONTAMINANTS

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, 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: 1-800-426-4791.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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 at: 1-800-426-4791.

EFFECTS OF LEAD

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 Palatka 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 Shawn Bruneau at: 386-329-0144. 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>.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In the Water Quality Test Results tables below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Level 2 Assessment - a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred

and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) - the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (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 (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.

Not Detected (ND) - 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 (µg/l) - one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Treatment Technique (TT) - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	TT Violation? (Y/N)	Total No. of Positive Samples	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	03/2025, 04/2025	Y	5	N/A	*	Naturally present in the environment

*The Treatment Technique (TT) violation was not taking every required repeat sample after routine total coliform positive results.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct an assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

After the March 2025 and April 2025 monthly monitoring periods, a Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. The Level 2 assessment was completed in May 2025. In addition, we were required to take 2 corrective actions, and we completed both of these actions.

We did not complete the required sampling for bacteriologicals on time and therefore were in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. Because we did not take the required number of samples, we did not know whether the contaminants were present in your drinking water, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during that time. The monitoring period was 4/1/2025, through 4/30/2025. 10 samples were required, and 5 were taken. Sampling resumed on 5/2/2025.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Results in the Level Detected column for Inorganic Contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

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)	09/2023	N	0.01	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	09/2023	N	0.19	N/A	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium (ppm)	09/2023	N	60	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

We did not complete the required sampling for Nitrate and Nitrite on time and therefore were in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. Because we did not take the required number of samples, we did not know whether the contaminants were present in your drinking water, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during that time. The monitoring period was 1/1/2024, through 12/31/2024. 1 sample was required for each contaminant, and 0 were taken. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate or nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Results in the Level Detected column for Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products are the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected.

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
Chlorine (ppm)	01/2024 – 12/2024	N	1.01	0.41 – 1.03	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Results in the Level Detected column for Stage 2 Disinfection By-products are the highest locational running annual average (LRAA), or highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

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
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	02/2024, 06/2024, 09/2024, 12/2024	N	28.3	0.5 – 34.6	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) @ Boat Ramp	02/2024, 06/2024, 09/2024, 12/2024	Y	125.4	89.0 – 123.5	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) @ Bronson & 7 th St.	02/2024, 06/2024, 09/2024, 12/2024	Y	132.1	87.0 – 147.9	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) @ Crestwood & Cedar St.	02/2024, 06/2024, 09/2024, 12/2024	Y	118.6	88.8 – 121.5	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb) @ River & 12 th St.	02/2024, 06/2024, 09/2024, 12/2024	Y	120.7	82.7 – 99.0	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Our water system was in violation of federal and state water quality standards for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) from 1/1/2024 through 3/31/2025. The levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) are shown in the Water Quality Test Results above. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We have cleaned out our aerators and instituted a flushing program to reduce our Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) levels. Samples taken 3/14/25 have lowered our LRAA below 80 ppb at all locations, but we will continue increased quarterly monitoring.

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded? (Y/N)	90 th Percentile Result	No. of Sites Over AL	Range of Results	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	09/2022	N	0.068	0	ND – 0.31	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives