

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. The most recent sampling event for lead in the City of Tarpon Springs occurred in 2022. During this time, all samples were collected directly from regularly-used customer home taps following a minimum stagnation period. All sample results fell well below the 15 ppb allowable limit, with the minimum detection limit being 1 ppb. Routine lead testing will be performed again in 2025.

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>.

Only use cold water for eating and drinking: Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water could contain higher levels of lead if it is present. Run cold water until it becomes as cold as it can get. Note that boiling water will NOT get rid of lead contamination. If you decide to have your water tested yourself, it is recommended that you use a laboratory that has been certified under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). A list of NELAP accredited labs can be found at https://fldeploc.dep.state.fl.us/aams/loc_search.asp. If you choose to use water filters or treatment devices for lead removal, verify the claims of manufacturers by checking with independent certifying organizations that provide lists of treatment devices they have certified, such as NSF International.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to learn more or have any questions or concerns about this report, please contact the City of Tarpon Springs Water Division at (727) 937-2557. If you would like to attend the City of Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners meetings, regularly scheduled meetings are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the Tarpon Springs City Hall. The public may also participate in the meeting using Zoom or telephone or view only on television or YouTube. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ctsfl.us/board-of-commissioners-agenda/>

The City of Tarpon Springs is pleased to present this year’s Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set forth by both federal and state regulatory agencies. The City of Tarpon Springs routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations, and we are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements. This report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023, except where indicated otherwise. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report, are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Where does my water come from?

City of Tarpon Springs drinking water is obtained from the Tarpon Springs Reverse Osmosis Water Facility (ROWF) which treats brackish groundwater from the City’s well field. The City’s own water sources are drawn from the Floridan Aquifer, and are treated through reverse osmosis filtration, aeration, chlorine disinfection, conditioning, and then an inhibitor is added to prevent corrosion. Fluoride is also added for dental health purposes. Drinking water from the ROWF was supplemented by freshwater well treatment facilities for part of 2023 that provided chlorine disinfection. The City also maintains the ability to purchase drinking water from Pinellas County on a limited, as needed basis. Pinellas County obtains their water from Tampa Bay Water, a regional water supplier serving a blend of groundwater and surface water.

It is the constant goal of the City to provide quality water to its valued customers. If you would like to learn more or have any questions or concerns about this report, please contact the City of Tarpon Springs Water Division at (727) 937-2557.

Source Water Assessment

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2022. The assessment was conducted to provide

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information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. Twelve potential sources of contamination were identified for this system, ranging from low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the DEP SWAPP website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>. The assessment is designed to assist the community and utilities by locating *potential* sources of contamination, such as gas stations and recycling facilities in the vicinity or our wells, but does *not* indicate that any *actual* contamination of water sources has occurred.

What can affect drinking water quality?

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.

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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

The City of Tarpon Springs has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the EPA’s Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Additional Information About Lead

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 Tarpon Springs is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but

Water Quality Data Table

The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed in the table were found in your water. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA and the State allow us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

In the table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions at right:

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (mo/yr)	TT VIOLATION Y/N	RESULT	MCLG	TT	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform Bacteria	1/23-12/23	No	0	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	
The City of Tarpon Springs collects at least 360 bacteriological samples per year from the distribution system and has them analyzed by a state-certified laboratory.							
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
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Barium (ppm)	5/23	No	0.016	ND - 0.016	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	5/23	No	1.1	ND - 1.1	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	5/23	No	0.56	ND - 0.56	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
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	5/23	No	1.5	ND - 1.5	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	5/23	No	81	81	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Selenium (ppb)	5/23	No	2	ND - 2	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
DISINFECTANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL VIOLATION Y/N	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MRDLG	MRDL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS							
For 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 highest and lowest result of all the individual samples collected during the past year.							
Chlorine and Chloramines (ppm)	1/23-12/23	No	1.79	0.91 - 2.31	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
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
STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2, 5, 8, 11/23	No	5.6	0.51 - 6.23	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2, 5, 8, 11/23	No	49	0.68 - 29.43	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (mo/yr)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION			
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Perfluorobutanoic acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0087	ND - 0.0105	PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications including: non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.			
Perfluoropentanoic acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0076	ND - 0.0102				
Perfluorohexanoic acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0055	ND - 0.0070				
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHpA] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0037	ND - 0.0044				
Perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0098	ND - 0.0105				
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0098	ND - 0.0146				
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0078	ND - 0.0091				
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2,8,9/23	0.0351	ND - 0.0369				
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (mo/yr)	AL EXCEEDED Y/N	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	# OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEED-ING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
LEAD AND COPPER (Tap Water)							
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	8/22	No	0.15	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	8/22	No	1.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
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
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2, 5, 8, 11/20	No	3.6	ND - 3.6	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	2, 5, 8, 11/20	No	4.2	ND - 4.2	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/l)	2, 5, 8, 11/20	No	4.2	ND - 4.2	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

Important Drinking Water 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.

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

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 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.

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

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.

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.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): Measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation saves utility customers money and helps the environment by reducing well water withdrawals. According to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), a simple leaky faucet can waste anywhere from several gallons to hundreds of gallons per day! You can take simple steps today that will conserve water and conserve your money. Here are some great places to start:

- Check your sprinkler heads monthly while the system is running. Irrigation leaks waste a lot of water!
- The University of Florida Extension Service recommends that your lawn receive ¾” of water, two days per week. While this ideally is accomplished with rainfall, the **City year round watering restrictions only allow for once per week watering for all sources except reclaimed water.** By placing rain gauges or measuring cups around your yard, you can test to make sure that you are not over-watering. Doing this test and watering according to restrictions and only when needed can save up to 10-20% on your water bill. See the link below for more information: <http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/water/lawn-care-and-irrigation/>
- Fix any leaky faucets. The water they waste can be costly and they are often relatively easy to repair with do-it-yourself kits that provide instructions. Use a licensed plumber if preferred.
- For more information on these and other basic water conservation tips, visit the SWFWMD website: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/water-conservation>

To learn about Florida-friendly plants that are low maintenance, attract wildlife, and require little irrigation or fertilizer, please visit <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellas/florida-friendly-landscaping/>