



2024 Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report.

This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The City of St. Augustine 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. Data obtained before January 1, 2024 and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

City of St. Augustine Drinking Water Source

Our water source is ground water from eight wells, one of which draws from Surficial Aquifer, and seven of which draw from the Floridan Aquifer.

Our water treatment process includes a low-pressure Reverse Osmosis / Nanofiltration Treatment Plant, followed by aeration and free chlorine disinfection. This plant is capable of treating 6.5 million gallons of water per day.

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 is one potential source of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP SWAPP website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Terry Reames, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (904) 825-1044. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more or attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, please contact us for dates and times.

Terms and Abbreviations

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

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 Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

N/A means 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 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.

Picocurie 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 that a water system must follow.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is 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.

CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measure	Dates of Sampling (Mo/Yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	8 & 11 2023	No	0.0094	0.0075-.0094	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	8 & 11 2023	No	0.49	0.44-0.49	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; Water additive that promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Lead (ppb)	8 & 11 2023	N	1.1	ND – 1.1	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Sodium (ppm)	8 & 11 2023	No	31	29 – 31	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion; leaching from soil

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant and Unit of Measure	Dates of Sampling (Mo/Yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	06/2024 & 10/2024	No	28.05	5.13 – 28.05	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	06/2024 & 10/2024	No	62.91	48.13 – 62.91	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measure	Dates of Sampling (Mo/Yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeded the AL	Range of Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	8/2023	No	0.20	0 of 33	ND – 0.45	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	8/2023	No	0.8	0 of 33	ND – 5.1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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 the range of results of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review at the Utilities & Public Works Department, 75 King Street, St. Augustine, Florida.

Water Service Line Inventory

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued new requirements to strengthen protections from the health effects of lead in drinking water. The revised rule requires public water systems to take inventory of all water service lines to identify potential sources of lead in drinking water. The City is actively working on a system-wide inventory of water service lines. The inventory includes both the City-owned and customer-owned portions of the water service line. City and county residents receiving a City of St. Augustine water bill can check the status of their water service line material by entering their address in the interactive Lead Service Line Viewer map at www.CityStAug.com/WaterServiceLine.

The City of St. Augustine Water Treatment Plant Staff work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our drinking water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Important Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water & 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 & bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts & metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, & residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil & 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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).

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 St. Augustine 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 the City of St. Augustine at 904-825-1040. 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>.