2024 Water Quality Report of the City of St. Petersburg

The Water Resources Department is pleased to provide this year's Water Quality Report. This report contains important information about your drinking water. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide a high-quality product that meets or exceeds Federal and State standards.

The City of St. Petersburg 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 through December 31, 2024. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data (e.g., for inorganic contaminants), though representative, is more than one-year old. This report shows our water quality results, and you will notice that we had no maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations. While E. coli was detected in our distribution system this year, we are not in violation of the E. coli MCL.

Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report are results from testing of treated water from the **Cosme Water Treatment Plant**. However, if you would like to request a copy of our wholesaler's annual water quality report, please contact **Tampa Bay Water** at 727-796-2355. This report will be mailed to customers only upon request by calling the **Water Resources Department** at 727-893-7261. This report is also available upon request at the Water Resources Administration Building and is online at **stpete.org/WaterQualityReport**.

Providing High Quality Drinking Water

This year, about 10.3 billion gallons of water were treated at our plant, which is in northwest Hillsborough County. This treatment includes aeration, lime softening to help with corrosion control, disinfection with chloramines, and filtration. Sodium hydroxide is utilized to maintain a stable pH for enhancement of disinfection and corrosion control in the distribution system. Fluoride is added to benefit dental health.

Our Drinking Water Sources

The City of St. Petersburg is one of six member governments who formed **Tampa Bay Water**, the regional water utility which supplies all our drinking water. The water is a dynamic blend of groundwater, surface water and desalinated water. Groundwater is supplied by six different well fields (TBW controls thirteen well fields in total), pumping water from the Floridan Aquifer. Surface water is drawn from the Alafia River, the Hillsborough River, the C. W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, and the Tampa Bypass Canal. Hillsborough Bay is the primary supply for the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination facility.

The **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)** performs source water assessments to provide information about potential sources of contamination to water systems. In 2024, the FDEP performed assessments for Tampa Bay Water. The assessment results are available on the **FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program** website at **prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/** or they can be obtained from **Tampa Bay Water**, 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, FL 33763, phone **727-796-2355**.

Possible Sources of Drinking Water Contamination

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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at **1-800-426-4791**.

Some 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/Center for Disease Control (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.**

Lead in Drinking Water

In the summer of 2023, we performed lead and copper testing of tap water collected at residences throughout the City. These tests indicate that our corrosion control measures are successful in preventing leaching of lead in household plumbing. The results of these tests can be found at **stpete.org/WaterLineInventory** in the "Water Quality Monitoring at Homes" section.

In accordance with EPA requirements, The City has developed and must maintain a water service line inventory that is publicly accessible. Service lines that were classified according to statistical analysis may be updated as additional information is obtained or the statistical analysis is updated. To view the map, visit **stpete.org/WaterLineInventory** and look for the link in the "Water Service Line Inventory Map" section. If you believe your service line material record is incorrect, please reach out to the Water Resources Dispatch Center at **727-893-7261**.

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. Petersburg 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, the City of St. Petersburg recommends working with **mytapscore.com**, a nationwide network of certified labs to offer homeowners and businesses discounted rates for water quality analysis. For more information, visit **stpete.org/WaterLineInventory** and look for the link for the Lead and Copper Test Kit in the "Water Quality Monitoring at Homes" section. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **epa.gov/Safewater/Lead**.

For More Information

To report leaks or other water quality problems *(answered 24 hrs)*:
Water Resources Dept. • 727-893-7261

Questions regarding your utility bill:
Customer Service • 727-893-7341

For questions regarding water treatment:
Operations Specialist • 727-892-5881

For questions regarding this report:
Operations Specialist • 727-892-5881

Questions about watering restrictions and conservation:
Water Watch Info Line • 727-892-5300

To request speakers for your neighborhood association meetings:
Water Resources Dept. • 727-893-7261

Online information about the City of St. Petersburg's water system: **stpete.org/Water**

Online drinking water information from EPA: **epa.gov/SDWA**

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome at City Council meetings which occur regularly on Thursdays. Please call the St. Peter Service Center at 727-893-7111 for more information. Other ways to become involved include contacting elected officials and participating in your neighborhood association.

COMMONLY-REQUESTED TESTING RESULTS:

The following results are the averages of monthly samples taken in 2024.

pH • 8.2 **Hardness** • 165 mg/L **Alkalinity** • 125 mg/L **Calcium** • 57 mg/L **Magnesium** • 6 mg/L **Sulfate** • 61 mg/L

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Total Number of Positive Samples for the Year	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
E. Coli	1/24 – 12/24	N	1	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. Coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. Coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. Coli	Human and animal fecal waste

Inorganic Contaminants

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)	5/23	N	0.009	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	5/23	N	0.620	N/A	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)	10/24	N	0.23	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	5/23	N	13.5	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected Highest RAA	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	1/24 - 12/24	N	3.82	0.60 – 5.90	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	1/24, 4/24, 7/24, 10/24	N	22.65	10.00 – 30.26	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomenthanes (TTHM) (ppb)	1/24, 4/24, 7/24, 10/24	N	22	13.31 – 27.3	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 (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (Tap water) (ppm)	7/23 – 8/23	N	0.43	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Tap water) (ppb)	7/23 – 8/23	N	1.8	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Results of Tampa Bay Water Monitoring

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling	TT Violation (Y/N)	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest monthly % of samples meeting regulatory limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	1/24 – 12/24	N	0.320	100	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	4/24	N	4.0	ND – 40	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	4/24	N	2.5	ND – 2.5	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	4/24	N	0.467	ND – 0.467	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	4/24	N	0.024	ND – 0.024	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4/24	N	0.370	ND – 0.370	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.
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	4/24	N	0.367	ND – 0.367	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	4/24	N	0.610	ND – 0.610	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland.
Nickel (ppb)	4/24	N	3	ND – 3	100	N/A	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.
Selenium (ppb)	4/24	N	4	ND – 4	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Sodium (ppm)	4/24	N	78.5	8.99 – 78.5	160	N/A	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Bromate (ppb)	1/24 – 12/24	N	0.80 Highest RAA	ND – 2.51	MCLG = 0	MCL = 10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite (ppm)	1/24 – 12/24	N	Highest Monthly Average 0.00913	Highest Average following an MCL exceedance at the ETDS N/A	MCLG = 0.8	MCL = 1.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	1/24 – 12/24	TT Violation (Y/N) N	LRAAMRR 3.7	Range of MRR 1.58 – 3.7	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

To help you better understand the terms used in the results table, we're provided the following definitions:

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

ETDS • Entrance to the distribution system.

LRAAMRR • Lowest running annual average, compiled quarterly, of monthly removal ratios.

MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level • 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.

MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal • 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.

MRDL or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level • 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.

MRDLG or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal • 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.

MRR • Monthly removal ratios.

N/A • Not applicable.

ND • Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) • Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. It is monitored it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of filtration systems. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

ppb (parts per billion) or µg/L (micrograms per Liter) • One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

ppm (parts per million) or mg/L (milligrams per Liter) • One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

RAA • Running annual average (computed quarterly) of monthly averages.

TT or Treatment Technique • A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.