

2012 Water Quality Report

The Town of Polk City

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and want you to be informed about the water and services delivered to you in 2012. Our goal is to provide a dependable supply of healthy drinking water. Therefore we are pleased to provide our Annual Water Report that describes the quality of the water you drink everyday. Information about the contaminants found in your water and how this may relate to your health. The presence of a moderate amount of contaminants in drinking water within regulated standards is normal and does not indicate that the water poses a health risk. Should there be any reason for health concerns with your water, we would notify you immediately.

We are proud to report that in 2012 our drinking water met all federal and state quality standards

Where does our water come from?

The Town of Polk City draws water from wells drilled deep into the Floridan aquifer. The sources of drinking 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 radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from human or animal activity.

Why must our water have Chlorine?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain very small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. Florida's drinking water rules require disinfection, so chlorine is added and a minimum contact time of fifteen minutes is provided to destroy living organisms before being delivered to you.

Have more questions?

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, or want to obtain a copy of this report, please contact Charles Nichols at (863)874-4808. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Protecting your water

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection has conducted Source Water Assessment (SWA), for all public water systems in Florida, to identify and assess any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of your water supply. A SWA conducted for this system in 2009 found that the system's wells are at moderate risk for contamination due to the wells being located within an area of known agricultural ground water contamination, designated as a "Delineated Area" within Florida, for petroleum storage tanks and for hazardous waste. SWA report for Polk City is available at the DEP SWAPP website: www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from Charles Nichols at (863)874-4808.

What contaminates might be in water?

Naturally occurring or man-made contaminants that may be present in raw or source water before it is treated include:

Microbial contaminants, such as living viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

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.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

Is our water safe for everyone?

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. US EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available on the web at epa.gov/safewater or telephone the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)426-4791 for any drinking water issue.



Special Health Concerns

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (the EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hot line at (800)426-4791 or on-line at their web site: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>



Want to learn more about Florida's water?

Please visit the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) web site at: <http://www.myflorida.com> follow the prompts to: Find an Agency, Environmental Protection, Water, and Drinking Water

What is included in the Water Quality Test Results Data Table? - How do I read it?

The test results contained in this report are based on compliance monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2012 or in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2012, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations authorized by the state and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We monitor for over 80 contaminants that might be in water. Only test results exceeding a regulated minimum detection level are included in this report. Although you will find many terms you might not be familiar with, to help you better understand these terms we've provided the following summary of these terms' abbreviations and definitions:

Term Appearing In Table		Definition
Action Level	AL	The concentration of contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Maximum Contaminant Level	MCL	The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCGLs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	MCGL	The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCGLs 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 of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
Not Applicable	n/a	Does not apply.
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 one million parts by weight of the water sample.
Parts per billion	ppb	Or micrograms per liter (ug/l) - one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.
Picocuries per liter	pCi/L	Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Florida ID # 6531424 2012 TEST RESULTS TABLE The Town of Polk City

** Results in the Level Detected column for radiological and Inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		MCL Violation Yes / No	**Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Monitoring Period Month / Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	No	7.4	4.8 – 7.4	0	15	Jan – Dec 2009	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + Radium 228 [combined Radium]	pCi/L	No	1.3	0.5 – 1.3	0	5	Jan – Dec 2009	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	Pg/L	No	11.1	7.2 – 11.1	0	30	Jan – Dec 2009	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants

Arsenic	ppb	No	3.2	2.9 – 3.2	n/a	10	Jan – Dec 2012	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Antimony	ppb	No	0.33	0.27 – 0.33	6	6	Jan – Dec 2012	Natural weathering of rock, industrial production, municipal waste disposal, and manufacturing processes.
Barium	ppm	No	0.0060	0.0056 – 0.0060	2	2	Jan – Dec 2012	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (point of entry)	ppb	No	0.1	ND – 0.1	2	2	Jan – Dec 2012	Natural occurrence in soil. Pollution from mining and refining operations.
Selenium	ppb	No	1.2	0.97 – 1.2	50	50	Jan – Dec 2012	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Sodium	ppm	No	5.8	5.3 – 5.8	n/a	160	Jan – Dec 2012	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.
Thallium	ppb	No	0.050	0.044 – 0.050	2	2	Jan – Dec 2012	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories.

TTHMs and Stage 1 Disinfectant Disinfection By-Product (D : DBP) Parameters

Chlorine – Level Detected is the highest 2011 monthly average; Range of Results is the range of (lowest to highest) monthly residual disinfectant.

HAA5 / TTHMs – Level Detected is the highest detected level at any sampling point. Range of Results is the range of results from lowest to highest.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of sampling (mo. / yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	ppm	Jan – Dec 2012	No	0.9	0.2 – 2.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM]	ppb	July – Sept 2012	No	9.91	9.74 – 9.91	n/a	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid [HAA5]	ppb	July – Sept 2012	No	29.01	10.70 – 29.01	n/a	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Action Level Violation Yes / No	90 th Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	MCGL	Action Level	Monitoring Period Month / Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water)	No	0.19	0	1.3	AL= 1.3	June – Sept 2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (tap water)	No	1.1	0	15	AL = 15	June – Sept 2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; public water systems, and erosion of natural deposits.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires utilities issue to the following information, even if you have no Lead in your 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. Blue Jay Mobile Home Park is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material 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>.

Why is Drinking Water Regulated?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and EPA prescribe regulations and standards for limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. To protect consumers, Florida's DEP also requires public water systems comply with regulations governing the construction, operation and health issues relative to your water supply. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect of some contaminants. Don't forget, the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Bottled water and water vending machines are regulated under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Safety and the federal Food and Drug Administration regulations that establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Don't forget, the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.