



2023 Annual Water Quality Report

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. South Walton Utility's (SWU) water source is ground water from thirteen wells. These wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant at all the well sites and Sodium Hypochlorite is used to boost disinfectant levels in water coming from the Rock Hill Wellfield for SWU customers.

South Walton Utility 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 1st to December 31st, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the Federal and State laws, rules and regulations.

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.

In the following table you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following 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 of other requirements that a water system must follow.

The water quality report is an annual publication required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- 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.

- 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.
- "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.
- Level 1 Assessment - a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

2023 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

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)	5/23	N	7.5	ND - 7.5	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	5/23	N	1.8	ND - 1.8	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.

Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	1/23	N	0.07	0.012 - 0.07	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	1/23	N	0.67	0.03 - 0.67	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories. Water additive that promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm.
Sodium (ppm)	1/23	N	48	1.5 - 48	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil.
Selenium (ppb)	1/23	N	3.1	ND - 3.1	50	50	A non-metallic mineral found in nature and occurs naturally.

Microbiological Contaminant						
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation	Results	MCLG or MRDLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	1-12/23	N	Positive	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment.

Unregulated Contaminants				
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	Level Detected (average)	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Lithium (ppb)	2, 8/23	14.59	ND - 29.1	Naturally occurring element and may be found at higher concentrations in certain parts of the country, particularly in groundwater sources in arid locations.
Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS) (ppb)	2, 8/23	0.0013	ND - 0.0014	Manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm) (Stage 1)	1-12/23	N	1.03	0.92 - 1.15	MRDLG-4	MRDL = 4.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	7, 10/23	N	38.05	4.5 - 71	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids Five (HAA5) (ppb)	7, 10/23	N	0.95	ND - 1.9	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (at the tap) (ppb)	7-9/23	N	2.7	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household Plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (at the tap) (ppm)	7-9/23	N	0.079	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.

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 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, 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (800-426-4701).

In 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on South Walton Utility. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the system's well sites. There are eleven (11) sources of potential contamination with a low to moderate risk for South Walton Utility. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from Joe Ream, Water/Wastewater Director, at South Walton Utility at (850) 837-2988.

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. South Walton Utility is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but 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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We, at South Walton Utility, would like 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed. If you are interested in learning more about the water department and water quality, or participating in the decision-making process, there are several opportunities available. Questions about water quality can be answered by calling Joe Ream, Water/Wastewater Director, at 850-837-2988. We encourage our members to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at our office at 369 Miramar Beach Dr., Miramar Beach, FL 32550.

South Walton Utility has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UC) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UC and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UC. 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 (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.