

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
City of Clearwater

PWS ID#: FL6520336

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

City of Clearwater residents use approximately 11 million gallons of potable water every day. Approximately 60 percent is pumped from city-owned and -operated groundwater wells; the remaining daily demand is supplied by water purchased from Pinellas County Utilities. The groundwater source for Clearwater is called the Floridan Aquifer. This aquifer is one of the major sources of groundwater in the United States and underlies all of Florida, southern Georgia, and adjacent parts of Alabama and South Carolina.

Pinellas County Utilities receives drinking water from Tampa Bay Water, a regional water supplier, which in turn becomes part of the water supplied to the residents of Clearwater. The water supplied by Tampa Bay Water is a blend of groundwater, treated surface water, and desalinated seawater. Eleven regional wellfields pumping from the Floridan Aquifer are the primary source for the regional groundwater supply. The Alafia River, Hillsborough River, C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, and the Tampa Bypass Canal are the primary supplies for the regional treated surface water supply. Hillsborough Bay is the primary supply of seawater for the regional desalinated supply. For more information on the Tampa Bay Water system, visit tampabaywater.org.

How Is My Water Treated?

Clearwater has three water treatment plants, two of which use reverse osmosis (RO). Clearwater uses best available treatment technologies to ensure that the drinking water delivered to our consumers meets or exceeds all drinking water standards.



At RO Plant No. 1, water from wells in the Upper Floridan Aquifer is filtered to remove suspended solids such as iron and then processed by reverse osmosis to remove selected dissolved molecules, including hardness-causing salts. The water is disinfected using monochloramines, stabilized to protect the pipeline system, and pumped to consumers.

At RO Plant No. 2, brackish water from the lower portions of the Upper Floridan Aquifer is treated by reverse osmosis to remove selected dissolved molecules, including hardness-causing salts. The water is then treated with ozone to remove sulfide, disinfected using monochloramines, stabilized to protect the pipeline system, and pumped to consumers.

At Water Plant No. 3, raw water from the Upper Floridan Aquifer is blended with water supplied by Pinellas County Utilities, disinfected using monochloramines, stabilized to protect the pipeline system, and pumped to consumers.

Community Participation Is Welcome

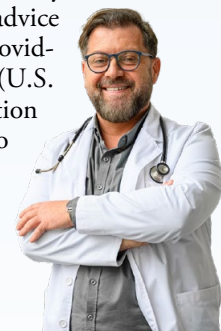
You are invited to participate in regularly scheduled meetings. The City of Clearwater Council normally meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month at Clearwater Main Library. The meeting agendas are published on the city's website at myclearwater.com. For more information, call (727) 562-4090.

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners meets typically twice a month (usually, but not always) on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The earlier meeting in the month begins at 9:30 a.m. Meetings in the latter part of the month are held in two parts. Agenda items are discussed with the board at 2:00 p.m., after which there is a break and the board reconvenes at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend these meetings, held in the fifth-floor Assembly Room of the Pinellas County Courthouse, located at 315 Court Street in Clearwater. For more information, call (727) 464-3485.

Tampa Bay Water's Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 9:30 a.m. at Tampa Bay Water, 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater. For more information, visit tampabaywater.org or call (727) 796-2355.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.



QUESTIONS?

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies. Please contact Water Production Manager Fred Hemerick at (727) 562-4627 if you have questions about this report.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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:

Microbial Contaminants, such as 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; and

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

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) 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 are 44 potential contaminant sources ranging from low to moderate levels of concern.

In the same year, FDEP performed source water assessments for the Tampa Bay Water facilities. 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 or (727) 796-2355.



Lead in Home Plumbing

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. City of Clearwater 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Clearwater at (727) 562-4960. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems are required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Identifying the location of lead service lines (LSLs) is an important first step in planning for their replacement and protecting public health.

In accordance with FDEP requirements, if the lead service line inventory (LSLI) is not yet complete, the water system must continue efforts to identify and verify service line materials. This includes reviewing historical records, conducting field inspections, and updating the inventory as new information becomes available. Service lines with unknown material are classified as "unknown" until confirmed and are prioritized for further investigation. The system will continue to communicate with customers who may have lead or unknown service lines until the inventory is complete.

The lead service line inventory is available online at myclearwater.com/My-Government/0-City-Departments/Public-Utilities/Public-Information-About-Water-Service-Lines. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been conducted.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We have been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. EPA determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether these contaminants need to be regulated. For example, we participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. At present, no health standards (e.g., 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 U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS																
		City of Clearwater				Pinellas County Utilities										
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR		DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE SAMPLES FOR THE YEAR		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION						
<i>E. coli</i> (positive samples)	No	1/25-12/25	0		1/25-12/25	0		0	TT ¹	Human and animal fecal waste						
MICROBIOLOGICAL TURBIDITY																
		Tampa Bay Water														
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	HIGHEST SINGLE MEASUREMENT	LOWEST MONTHLY PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES MEETING REGULATORY LIMITS		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION								
Turbidity (NTU)	No	1/25-12/25	0.167 ²	100		NA	TT	Soil runoff								
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS ³																
		City of Clearwater			Pinellas County Utilities			Tampa Bay Water								
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION			
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	No	2/24	ND	NA	3/25	ND	NA	4/25	3.5	ND-3.5	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits			
Radium 226 + 228 [combined radium] (pCi/L)	No	2/24	1.15	ND-1.15	3/25	ND	NA	4/25	2.1	0.6-2.1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits			
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS																
		City of Clearwater			Pinellas County Utilities											
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION						
Arsenic (ppb)	No	5/25	0.35	ND-3.5	3/25	NA	NA	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes						
Barium (ppm)	No	5/25	0.0154	0.0071-0.0154	3/25	0.0126	NA	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits						
Chromium (ppb)	No	5/25	ND	NA	3/25	0.8	NA	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits						
Fluoride (ppm)	No	5/25	0.51	0.36-0.51	3/25	0.60	NA	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						
Nickel (ppb)	No	5/25	ND	NA	3/25	3.3	NA	NA	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil						
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	No	5/25	0.28	0.025-0.28	3/25	0.13	NA	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits						

SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

		City of Clearwater					
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAH] (ppt)	No	5/25	20	ND–20	0	200	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (ppb)	No	5/25	0.47	NA	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

		City of Clearwater			Pinellas County Utilities			Tampa Bay Water					
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Bromate ⁴ (ppb)	No	1/25-12/25	2.5	0.28–2.5	NA	NA	NA	1/25-12/25	4.66	2.59–7.18	0	10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine ⁵ (ppm)	No	1/25-12/25	3.18	0.6–4.9	1/25-12/25	3.8	0.30–5.3	NA	NA	NA	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

		Tampa Bay Water						
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	HIGHEST MONTHLY AVERAGE (THREE SAMPLE SET COLLECTED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM)	HIGHEST AVERAGE (THREE SAMPLE SET) FOLLOWING A DAILY MCL VIOLATION AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorite (ppm)	No	1/25-12/25	0.00782 ⁶	NA		0.8	1.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

		Tampa Bay Water						
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	TT VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LOWEST RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE, COMPUTED QUARTERLY, OF MONTHLY REMOVAL RATIOS	RANGE OF MONTHLY REMOVAL RATIOS		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)	No	1/25-12/25	2.1	1.81–6.16		NA	TT ⁷	Naturally present in the environment

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

		City of Clearwater			Pinellas County Utilities					
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	No	2/25, 5/25, 8/25, 11/25	32.5	5.3–55.2	2/25, 5/25, 8/25, 11/25	28.113	13.35–35.03	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	No	2/25, 5/25, 8/25, 11/25	68.0	32.0–68.8	2/25, 5/25, 8/25, 11/25	41.553	31.40–48.63	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection



Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)⁸

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	City of Clearwater			Pinellas County Utilities			AL (ACTION LEVEL)	MCLG	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
			90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	RANGE LOW-HIGH	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	RANGE LOW-HIGH				NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	No	6/23–8/23	0.34	NA	0	7/23–8/23	0.3	NA	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	No	6/23–8/23	1.2	NA	2	7/23–8/23	0.8	NA	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

RESULTS FOR CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

Sample Date: 12/3/2025 ▪ Results in parts per trillion (ppt)

PFAS CONTAMINANT	HFPO-DA	PFBS	PFHXS	PFNA	PFOA	PFOS
RO1	0.69 U	2.5	1.2 I	0.59 U	2.6	4.4
RO2	0.65 U	0.75 I	0.72 U	0.56 U	0.90 I	1.4 I
WTP3	0.68	1.5	0.75	0.59	1.2	1.2
Likely Source of Contamination	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities.					

¹ 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*.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. The result in the lowest monthly percentage column is the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits reported in the Monthly Operating Report.

³ Results in the Level Detected column for radioactive contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency. All the Level Detected and Range of Results reported were below the MCL.

⁴ Level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The Level Detected and Range of Results reported were below the MCL.

⁵ For chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the highest 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.

⁶ Highest monthly average was below the MCLG and the MCL.

⁷ The monthly TOC removal ratio is the ratio of the actual TOC removal and the TOC rule removal requirements.

⁸ This table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please go to myclearwater.com/waterreport.



Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (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 (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 (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 (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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

RAA: Running annual average.

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