

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



*Presented By*  
**City of Tavares Utilities**  
**Water Department**

PWS ID#: 3351333



## 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, 2024. Included are details about your source 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.

## City Council Meetings

The Tavares City Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Agendas may contain items pertaining to water quality, water treatment, and other water-related topics. You are invited to participate in this public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Agendas can be obtained from the City Clerk's office, 201 East Main Street, by calling (352) 253-4546, or online at [Tavares.org](http://Tavares.org).

## Source Water Assessment

In 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a source water assessment on the Tavares water system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are eight potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low to high susceptibility level. The latest assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp>, or these assessments can be obtained from the City of Tavares Water Department by calling (352) 742-6222.

## Source Water Description

Our system begins with a dependable ground water source drawn from the Florida Aquifer. The system is pumped from a source of six wells ranging in depth from 223 to 850 feet. These wells are located at four water plant facilities throughout the city. The two main finished water distribution facilities are equipped with aerators to remove hydrogen sulfide, a naturally occurring compound normally found in Florida aquifers. The system has a storage capacity of 2.5 million gallons, with a combined well pumping capacity of approximately 10,000 gallons per minute. The system is treated with chlorine to ensure that quality residuals are maintained throughout the distribution system to meet regulatory compliance. The distribution system consists of approximately 150 miles of piping and hydrants and 13,000 meter connections, which include potable, irrigation, and reclaimed water.



## 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](http://epa.gov/safewater).



## QUESTIONS?

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you have any questions, relating to the drinking water provided to by the City of Tavares, please contact Christopher Abbott, Tavares Utility/Water Department Manager, at (352) 742-6222 or [chris.abbott@tavaresfl.gov](mailto:chris.abbott@tavaresfl.gov); or Terry Binkley, Lead Water Treatment Operator, at: [terry.binkley@tavaresfl.gov](mailto:terry.binkley@tavaresfl.gov).

## 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.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our source and sent to an aeration tank, which allows for oxidation of the high iron levels and the removal of hydrogen sulfide, both present in the raw ground water. Chlorine is then added for disinfection. Chlorine is added again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.)

## 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. The City of Tavares Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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.

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 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 at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes 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. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Tavares Water Department at (352) 742-6222.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be requested by contacting the City of Tavares Water Department at (352) 742-6222. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.



## How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

# — BY THE NUMBERS —

 **5.1**  
TRILLION

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.

 **47.5**  
TRILLION

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.

 **33%**

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.

 **12**  
THOUSAND

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.

 **1.7**  
TRILLION

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.

 **2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.

## 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.

**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.

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

**ppb (µg/L) (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (mg/L) (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:



- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



## 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 UCMR5, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS										
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION			
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	03/02/2023	No	2.11	ND–2.11	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits			
PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS										
Inorganic Contaminants										
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION			
Barium (ppm)	03/02/2023	No	0.013	0.009–0.013	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits			
Fluoride (ppm)	03/02/2023	No	0.64	0.058–0.64	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			
Sodium (ppm)	03/02/2023	No	5.7	5.2–5.7	NA	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil			
STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS										
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)	01/2024-12/2024	No	0.8	0.73–0.9	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes			
STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS										
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)		MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION		
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5] (ppb)	01/2024-10/2024		No	11.3	6.5–11.3	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
TTHM [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	01/2024-10/2024		No	29.2	19.8–29.2	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)										
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL EXCEDDANCE (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	RANGE LOW-HIGH	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION		
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	06/07/2023	No	0.15	0	0.0095–0.22	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives		
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	06/07/2023	No	0.8	0	0.0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits		