

# Annual Quality Water Report

Reporting Year 2020  
PWSID#: 2010017



## Is My Water Safe?

**W**e are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Over the years we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

**S**ome 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

**T**he City of Alachua draws its water from the Floridian Aquifer through various locations within the city. The Floridian Aquifer is located about 230 feet deep in our area. This aquifer is the same source that provides water to our many springs throughout North Central Florida. It also provides local bottled water plants with their water.

After the City of Alachua draws its water from 3 wells from the Floridian Aquifer it is passed through the City's treatment facility where it is treated with the addition of two chemical additives, chlorine and fluoride. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant to kill potentially harmful pathogens that might contaminate our water system. As a required safety measure, we maintain a residual of chlorine within our water distribution system. Fluoride is an additive recommended by the A.D.A.

## Source Water Assessment and its Availability

In 2019, the Department of Environmental Protection 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 4 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to high susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Web site at <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

## Why are there Contaminants in my Drinking Water?

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

You are invited to participate in our public forums and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 15100 NW 142 Terrace, Alachua, FL 32615.

## Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

## Other Information

### Water Conservation

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

Automatic dishwashers use 15 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.

### Additional Information for Lead

**I**f 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. City of Alachua 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

---

# Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Stage 2 Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2.55	N/A N/A	7/2020	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	19.96	N/A N/A	7/2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Stage 1 Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>							
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4.0	1.02	0.82 1.18	1-12/2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.7	NA	4/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0059	NA	4/2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.28	NA	4/2020	No	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)	0	15	0.4	NA	4/2020	No	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder

Sodium (ppm)	NA	8.8	7.2	NA	4/2020	No	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Lead and Copper (Tap Water)</b>							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.62	8/2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	0	15	2.4	8/2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. For Community water systems, such as ours, monthly monitoring is required for Total Coliform. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the November 2020 compliance period, our system tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria in the distribution system. All repeat samples were satisfactory; however, we did not collect a bacteriological sample from the wells that were in service at the time. As a result, a monitoring violation occurred. In the future, we will make sure samples are collected from the wells if required for resampling.

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Microbes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*

*Any customers who are concerned about their exposure to Coliforms can choose alternative sources of water for ingestion.*

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.

**For more information please contact:**

Contact Name: Rodolfo Valladares  
 Address: PO Box 9 Alachua, FL 32616      Phone: 386-418-6100      Website: cityofalachua.com