

2020 Water Quality Report ***For the City of Ocala, Florida*** **(PWS-ID # 342-0922)**



Quality Water to Every Tap

The City of Ocala is pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Ocala's water treatment facilities have won numerous Department of Environmental Protection awards for excellence in operations, distribution, and maintenance.

Our water is obtained from ground water from six source wells which draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Our water is softened and chlorinated for disinfecting purposes and fluoridated for dental health purposes. This report provides our water quality results, describes what they mean, and details the excellent water and service we have delivered to you over the past year.

In 2020, 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 117 unique 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 & Protection Program (SWAPP) website at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL), as seen in the below chart, are set at very strict levels. To better clarify the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day for a lifetime at the MCL to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 (800-426-4791).

To help you understand the terms and abbreviations in the accompanying tables, we have provided the following definitions:

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

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): An important part of the Stage 2 disinfection Byproducts rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with the highest concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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.

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 to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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 water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L): One part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of water sample.

Picocurie per Liter (pCi/L): Measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Inorganic Contaminants							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chromium (ppb)	05/20	N	2.0	1.6 - 2.0	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	01/20-12/20	N	0.97	0.64 - 0.97	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Selenium (ppb)	05/20	N	0.83	ND – 0.83	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; discharge from mines
Barium (ppm)	05/20	N	0.0028	0.0028 - 0.0054	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	05/20	N	1.9	1.6 – 1.9	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	05/20	N	10.0	7.0 - 10.0	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

The City of Ocala routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where otherwise indicated, this report is based on the results for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. 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.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or 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)	01/20 – 12/20	N	1.00	0.70 – 1.43	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	05/20 – 08/20	N	21.7	18.2 – 21.7	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	05/20 - 08/20	N	4.0	2.6 – 4.0	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

For chlorine, the level detected is the the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest result of samples taken on May 11, or August 11, 2020. Range of Results is the range of individual samples collected during the past year.

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Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90 th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (Tap water) (ppm)	07/20	N	0.0138	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Tap Water) (ppb)	07/20	N	0.4	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

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. We are 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/>.

It is important 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. Water conservation tips are available at www.ocalafl.org under city departments/water resources. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call our office directly at 352-351-6772.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met

We failed to complete required sampling for hexachlorocyclopentadiene on time and therefore were in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. Because we did not take the required number of samples, we did not know whether the contaminants were present in your drinking water, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during that time. The monitoring period was January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Two samples were required, and only one was taken. Second required sample was collected on March 18, 2021.

Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. More information is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for City of Ocala

Unregulated Contaminants				
Contaminant and Unit of Measure	Dates of sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (ng/L)	06/20	8.6	8.6	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (ng/L)	06/20	11	11	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (ng/L)	06/20	6.0	6.0	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (ng/L)	06/20	39	39	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (ng/L)	06/20	37	37	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, floor polish, and as a pesticide.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (ng/L)	06/20	4.3	4.3	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, grease and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films.
We voluntarily monitor for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) annually and have included the results above. The EPA sets a Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 ng/L for PFOS and PFOA. Results in the Level Detected column are the highest detected level at the point of entry.				

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. You have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Benjamin Moose at 352-351-6772 or BMoose@ocalafl.org.

5 easy ways to save water outdoors

1. Are you odd? Or even?
Know your watering days.



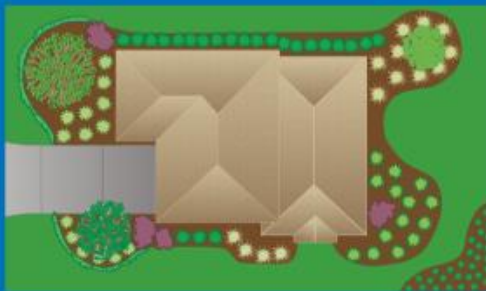
2. Check your sprinkler system to make sure it's working efficiently.

3. Turn off your sprinkler system if there's rain in the forecast.



4. Think "smart" irrigation technology.

5. Right plant, right place.



Learn more at
WaterLessFlorida.com

St. Johns River Water Management District