Where Does Your Water Come From?

Like most cities in South Florida, the source of the water delivered to your tap is the Biscayne Aquifer, a groundwater source. This aquifer is an underground geological formation where water is stored and extends from a few feet to approximately 200 feet below ground. The water is pumped from the aquifer at two well fields located at the City's two water treatment plants (Wittkop Park and Harris Field). Once the water is pumped out of the wells, chlorine is added to disinfect and fluoride is added to aid in dental protection. After the water is treated, it is stored in elevated water towers prior to entering the water distribution system.

Definition of Terms in the Table

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

***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.

***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 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.

***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.

"*ND*": Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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.

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

Source Water Assessment

In 2024, 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 3 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level.

The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at SWAPP (state.fl.us) .

Your Water is Tested for Your Protection

The City tests the quality of the water prior to and after water treatment. The water is also tested at various locations within the water distribution system. Testing is a necessary activity to ensure that the treatment process is properly controlled and that the public receives water that complies with all regulatory standards. All laboratory results are reported to the Florida Department of Health. Testing involves measuring the concentration of constituents in the water. Numerous constituent concentrations are measured either annually, quarterly, monthly, or on a daily basis.

The 2024 Water Quality Measurements Table Presents Test Results for Detected Substances

This table reports the concentrations of those substances that were detected in your drinking water. There are additional constituents that were tested for but are not reflected in this report. The table also includes the maximum concentration level that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Florida allow.

Source Water May Contain Substances That Are Not Completely Removed After Treatment

As with all sources of drinking water, water from the Biscayne Aquifer contains substances (also called contaminants) that may not be completely removed during water treatment. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial substances, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

2. Inorganic substances, 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.

3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

4. Organic chemical substances, 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.

5. Radioactive substances, 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, regulatory agencies set regulations which 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 level of protection for public health.

All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some People May Be More Vulnerable to Contaminants than Others

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Please **DO NOT FLUSH** your unused/unwanted medications down the toilet or sink drains. For more information, please visit: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm.

Information About Lead

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. The City of Homestead 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 visit their website at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information About Disinfection By-Products

Water leaving the Wittkop Park and the Harris Field Water Treatment Plants and water in the distribution system are tested for disinfection-byproducts. The results of the tests are reported in the Water Quality Measurement Table.

Information About Odor Test

During the 2024 monitoring period the City's water system conducted increased quarterly Odor T.O.N. (Threshold Oduor Number) test on both water plants (see table below for results). The City's Water system did NOT exceed any quarterly Odor T.O.N. test.

Have Questions? Call the Source

For more information or additional copies, please call Mr. Eliezer Thomas-Reyes, Superintendent Water/Wastewater Treatment Division at (305) 224-4772 or visit our website at www.homesteadfl.gov.

Why is Homestead Providing this Report?

As of September 1998, all water utilities in the United States are required by the EPA to provide these water quality reports to their customers on an annual basis.

The City of Homestead takes great pride in delivering first-class services to its residents, and providing safe, clean drinking water is no exception. To ensure the high quality water our residents expect, the City operates its own water treatment, storage and distribution systems.

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act and America's Water Infrastructure Act, the City of Homestead is pleased to present the annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2024. This report provides essential information about the drinking water delivered to your tap during 2024. Included is a detailed table with the results of the water quality tests conducted on Homestead's drinking water.

Starting July 1, 2025, the City of Homestead will stop adding fluoride to its water supply in accordance with the new State of Florida ban.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

RADIOCTIVE CONTAMINANTS

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
Radium 226+228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	5/23	N	0.8	ND - 0.8	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	5/23	N	1.9	ND - 1.9	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	3/24	N	2.60	1.86 - 2.60	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/24-12/24	N	1.00*	0.12 - 1.00	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Barium (ppm)	6/23	N	0.0123	0.0050 - 0.0123	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (ppb)	2/24	N	0.10*	0.05 - 0.10*	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2/24	N	2.00*	0.19 - 2.00*	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nickel (ppb)	2/24	N	0.9	0.9 - 0.9	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Sodium (ppm)	6/23	N	33.0*	23.0 - 33.0*	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90 Percentile Result	Number of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppb)	10/24	N	488	0 out of 60 homes exceeded the AL	1300	1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	10/24	N	4.30	0 out of 60 homes exceeded the AL	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTANTS

For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly average of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the average of all samples taken during the year, if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly.

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/24-12/24	N	1.50	1.10 - 1.60	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Disinfectant or 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
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	3/24, 6/24, 9/24, 12/24	N	24.25	3.60 - 41.00*	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	3/24, 6/24, 9/24, 12/24	N	44.75	9.50 - 58.00*	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

WATER QUALITY TESTING (OTHER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Odor (threshold odor number)	3/24, 6/24, 9/24, 12/24	N	2.39	ND - 2.39	N/A	3.0	Naturally occurring organics

The City of Homestead has an emergency interconnect with Miami Dade County Water & Sewer which could supplies our system with an alternative water supply. The MDC water system is in compliance with all Federal and State agencies, as is the City of Homestead. If you need a copy of the MD Water & Sewer Dept's 2024 CCR, please call MDC at (305)665-7477 or visit website http://www.miamidade.gov/water/water-quality-reports.asp.

The measurement & Maximum Allowable Levels are the 90 percentile value of the most recent round of sampling sites. If the 90 percentile value does not exceed the AL (less than 10% of homes levels above the AL), the system is in compliance. 2. Lead & Copper testing was performed in 2023. The water system conducted increase monitoring of the Odor water quality testing as a measure to ensure the tap water is safe to drink.

This report contains important information about the water you drink every day. If you don't understand it, please call Mr. Eliezer Thomas-Reyes, Superintendent of the Water and Wastewater Treatment Division, at (305) 224-4772.

2024 Water Quality Report