



WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Hilton Head Public Service District

for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report provides information on the quality of your drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all drinking water suppliers to provide their customers with a water quality report on an annual basis. This report contains information on the source of your water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Hilton Head PSD is governed by an elected Board of Commissioners. The PSD Commission typically meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the PSD Community Room at our Water Resource Center at 21 Oak Park Drive off Mathews Drive on Hilton Head Island.

If you have questions about this report or about the water provided to you by the PSD, please contact PSD Water Quality Laboratory Supervisor Sarah Hickman at (843) 681-5525 or info@hpsd.com.



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Mandatory Statements

The following mandatory statements are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to appear in this Annual Water Quality Report, regardless of the results of water quality monitoring. These statements must appear in all Annual Water Quality Reports for all publicly regulated drinking water providers in the United States.

Sources of Drinking Water

Hilton Head PSD obtains approximately 60 percent of its water from three (3) groundwater wells in the brackish Middle Floridan Aquifer, which is treated in the PSD's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Drinking Water Treatment Facility. The remainder of the PSD's water is obtained via wholesale purchase of treated drinking water from the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA), and from groundwater wells in the freshwater Upper Floridan Aquifer.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 required DHEC to perform a source water assessment for all drinking water supplies in South Carolina. Learn more about the state's source water protection program at <https://scdhec.gov/environment/your-water-coast/source-water-protection>. View Hilton Head PSD's Source Water Assessment at <https://hhpsd.com/publications/>.

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. These substances are called "contaminants."

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and SC DHEC prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Message from the EPA

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The following definitions will help you understand the data and information presented in the Water Quality Test Result tables, some of which may require explanation.

UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

ppm (parts per million): This is the same as milligrams per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten thousand dollars.

ppb (parts per billion): This is the same as micrograms per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten million dollars.

WATER QUALITY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

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.

MNR (Monitoring Not Required): Monitoring is not required, but recommended.

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 the disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

LRAA (Location Running Annual Average): The average concentration at a particular location for four consecutive quarters.

NA (Not Applicable): Does not apply.

ND (Not Detected): Not detected.

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

Regulated and Unregulated Water Quality Monitoring

Hilton Head PSD routinely monitors your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The data below shows monitoring results for the most recent testing period. All were below the regulatory limits.

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products						
Constituent	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	RAA = 2.04 Range = 0.06 – 3.02	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	NA	60 ppb	LRAA = 17 Range = ND – 24	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	NA	80 ppb	LRAA = 21 Range = 3 - 26	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic						
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.42 Range = 0.11 – 0.42	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.1 Range = ND – 0.1	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Thallium	0.5 ppb	2 ppb	Highest Level Detected = 0.5 Range = ND – 0.5	2021	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Microbiological						
E. coli	0	TT*	0	2023	No	Human or animal fecal waste
Total Coliform	NA	TT	0	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment

On April 1, 2016, SCDHEC required Public Water Systems to implement the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR).

Under RTCR, a TT violation is defined as any of the following:

- 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.

Lead and Copper							
Constituent	MCLG	AL	Detect in Your Water (90 th percentile)	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL?	Typical Source
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.086	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	0 ppb	15 ppb	0.97	2021	0	No	

If present, 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.

Hilton Head PSD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. 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, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. 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 Hilton Head PSD at (843) 681-5525 or e-mail: info@hhpsd.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. Hilton Head PSD's service line inventory and lead tap sampling data are available for review at our office.

Regulated Water Quality Monitoring
Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA)
South Carolina ID #: 0720003

Inorganic						
Constituent	MCLG	MCL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.87 Range = 0.82 – 0.87	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.7 Range = 0.03 – 0.7	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.