

# 2015 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



  
**Collier County**  
Public Utilities Department  
Water Division

**W**e are pleased to present this summary on the quality of water provided to you during 2015. We are committed to the protection of your health, safety, and welfare when it comes to providing high quality drinking water and the services associated with providing that water to your tap.

## Source Water and Treatment for Collier County

The Collier County Water System pumps groundwater from three well fields located in the Golden Gate Estates. The North Hawthorn Well field has 24 wells that provide water to the North County Regional Water Treatment Plant. The South Hawthorn Well field has 42 wells that provide water to the South County Regional Water Treatment Plant. The Golden Gate Tamiami Well field has 36 wells that provide water to both treatment plants.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on the system in 2015. This assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the wells. Potential sources of contamination identified included underground petroleum storage tanks, injection wells, and industrial wastewater treatment plants. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

There are two Regional Water Treatment Plants, the North County Regional Water Treatment Plant (NCRWTP) and the South County Regional Water Treatment Plant (SCRWTP). The NCRWTP has 12 MGD treatment capacity utilizing nano-filtration treatment process and 8 MGD treatment capacity utilizing reverse osmosis treatment process. The SCRWTP has 12 MGD treatment capacity utilizing lime softening and 20 MGD treatment capacity utilizing reverse osmosis. The water is treated with chloramines for disinfection purposes and then fluoridated for dental health purposes. A corrosion inhibitor is also added to prevent corrosion of pipes.

The Collier County Water Division has an extensive and continuous testing program to routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water in accord with federal and state laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015. Data obtained before January 1, 2015, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

## Definitions

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

**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 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.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. "ND" means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**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 high 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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**MGD:** Million gallons per day.

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance in the water.

**Violation:** Violations occur when detected limits are greater than Maximum Contaminant Levels or Action Levels set by the EPA.

**UCMR:** Unregulated contaminants monitoring rule.

**90th Percentile:** The analytical result that is greater than or equal to 90% of the results.

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Florida Division of Environmental Protection:  
[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water: [www.epa.gov/OW](http://www.epa.gov/OW)

The American Water Works Association: [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact us at the following numbers.

For questions concerning this report and its contents please call (239) 252-4H2O.

For questions concerning your water service (account information, service requests, billing inquiries) please call (239) 252-2380.



## This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015.

Federal and state regulations allow 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, may be more than one year old. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. **Those contaminants listed in the table below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.**

### Inorganic Chemicals

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
Fluoride (ppm)	4/14	N	0.60	NA	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	6/15	N	0.086	NA	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	4/14	N	48.6	48.5 - 48.6	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	Monthly 2015	N	3.4	0.6 - 4.3	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	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 Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly 2015	N	24.9	8.1 - 33.6	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Quarterly 2015	N	56.3	24.2 - 77.1	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	Action Level Exceeded Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	Number of sampling sites exceeding the Action Level	MCLG	Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	7/14	N	0.051	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	7/14	N	1.5	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage/Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	Monthly 2015	N	0.7% (9/15)	0	For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in >5% of monthly samples. For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in >1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal coliform in the distribution system (positive samples)	Monthly 2015	N	1% (10/15)	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

The sources of drinking water (for 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 Collier County Water Division 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 (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

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

### Hardness of Your Water

General guidelines for classification of the hardness of water are: 0 to 60 mg/L (milligrams per liter) of hardness is classified as soft water; 61 to 120 mg/L as moderately hard water; 121 to 180 mg/L as hard water; and more than 180 mg/L as very hard water. The range of hardness of water delivered to your home by the Collier County Water Division in 2015 was 25 to 83 mg/L, or 1.9 to 4.8 grains per gallon, with an average hardness of 50 mg/L.

### Cross Connection Control

Any connection between the potable (drinking) water supply and any other source of water has the potential to contaminate the drinking water supply and is illegal in any form, permanent or temporary. Some common things we do around the house and yard can create a cross connection. For instance, without the proper vacuum breaker installed, leaving a garden hose submerged in a swimming pool is a cross connection. Attaching a pesticide or weed-killer mixing sprayer to the end of a hose has the potential to contaminate the drinking water. Connecting an irrigation system to both irrigation quality (reclaimed) water and the drinking water system is a cross connection that is not only dangerous, but also illegal. Only a licensed plumber should make changes to the plumbing on any property, or in any structure where any other source of water exists.

To prevent the possibility of back flow, Collier County adopted the "Collier County Cross-connection Control/Back flow Prevention Ordinance 97-33). This ordinance requires the installation of back flow prevention assemblies as part of any water service connection. The Water Division maintains a Cross-connection Control and Back flow Prevention Section to install, maintain, repair, and annually test back flow prevention assemblies. Please contact the Water Division for any necessary maintenance on the device.

## Addendum

We monitored for a specific list of Unregulated Contaminants (UCs) during the time period of 2013 - 2015 as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) or likely sources have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the detected analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. For the complete list of results, including the non-detected contaminants, contact Elizabeth Woods at 239-252-4159. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling M/Y	Level Detected	Range of Results
Chlorate (ppb)	4/14	260	21 - 260
Chromium (ppb)	4/14	0.54	0.3 - 0.54
Chromium 6 (ppb)	4/14	0.37	0.15 - 0.37
Strontium (ppb)	4/14	111	60.6 - 111
Vanadium (ppb)	4/14	1.7	0.29 - 1.7