St. Johns County Utilities
Northwest Utilities
2025 Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you 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.

Our water source is ground water from six wells that draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Due to the quality of the source water, the only treatment processes are aeration for odor control, chlorination to ensure disinfection, and pH adjustment.

In 2025, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. This assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are four potential sources of contamination identified for this system, and they all have a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Dan Nowaczyk at (904) 209-2787.** We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Please contact us for dates and times.

Northwest Utilities routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to 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, 2025. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data [e.g., Lead and Copper (Tap Water)], though representative, is more than one year old.

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 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 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.

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

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.

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.

“ND” means not detected and 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 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): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

TEST RESULTS TABLES

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
Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants and inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.							
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	8/2025	N	2.0	N/A	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	8/2025	N	0.6	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	8/2025	N			0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	8/2025	N	0.014	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	8/2025	N	0.45	N/A	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.
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	8, 9 & 10/2025	Y	16	ND - 16	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nickel (ppb)	8/2025	N	1.7	N/A	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	2 & 8/2025	N	0.23	ND – 0.23	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	8/2025	N	30	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Lead (point of entry): Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the MCL could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Secondary 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**
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	8/2025	N*	566	520 - 566	N/A	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

*We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Our system exceeded the federal and state water quality standard for Total Dissolved Solids in 2025. However, it is a secondary contaminant and is therefore considered to be an aesthetic, not health risk concern. Also, since it is the only secondary exceedance, it is not considered a violation.

Stage 2 Disinfectant & Stage 2 Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or TTHMs, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly, or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations.

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
Chlorine (ppm)	1-12/2025	N	3.40	0.6 – 3.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	2/25 – 8/25	N	16.44	9.23 – 16.44	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2/25 – 8/25	N	55.98	23.35 – 55.98	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	7 & 10/2025	N	.0191	0 of 93	ND – 0.45	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	7 & 10/2025	N	ND	0 of 93	ND – 6.9	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead levels. This report contains the 90th percentile and the range of results of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review by contacting Daniel Nowaczyk at (904)209-2787.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. St. Johns County Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Daniel Nowaczyk at (904)209-2787 Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. Ours is available for review online at https://lead-service-line-inventory-sjcutilities.hub.arcgis.com/

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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*).*

We at St. Johns County Utility work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.