

2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Brewster Water System

Ensuring Your Water is Safe

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We routinely monitor 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, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

Your Water Source

Your water is obtained from one groundwater well which draws from the Floridan aquifer. Some of your water is purchased from the City of Tallahassee, obtained from 26 groundwater wells drawing from the Floridan aquifer; the report includes their results. The water is then chlorinated for disinfection purposes. Fluoride is added to improve dental health.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on Brewster and the City of Tallahassee water systems. Information provided by this assessment indicated no potential sources of contamination near our well, and 38 potential sources of contamination were identified for the City of Tallahassee with a low to moderate 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>

How to Reach Us

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our regional operations manager at (727) 848-8292 ext 245. We encourage our valued customer to be informed about their water utility.

Important Health Information:

For Customer with Special Health Concerns

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).

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. Brewster Water System 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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About Your Drinking Water

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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**.

HOW TO READ THE TABLE

In the table accompanying this report you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. The following definitions are provided to assist you with understanding the report.

Important 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 or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **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.

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RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS - Brewster							
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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	09/2018	N	1.7	N/A	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	09/2018	N	0.6	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - Brewster							
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
Arsenic (ppb)	11/2021 & 12/2021	N	0.83	0.8-0.83	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	11/2021 & 12/2021	N	0.0063	0.0062-0.0063	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	11/2021 & 12/2021	N	4.4	2.5-4.4	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	10/2023	N	0.47	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS - Brewster							
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)	Monthly 2023	N	0.83	0.6 – 1.1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER) - Brewster							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	07/2020	N	0.2	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table Notes:

- Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic 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.
- For chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.