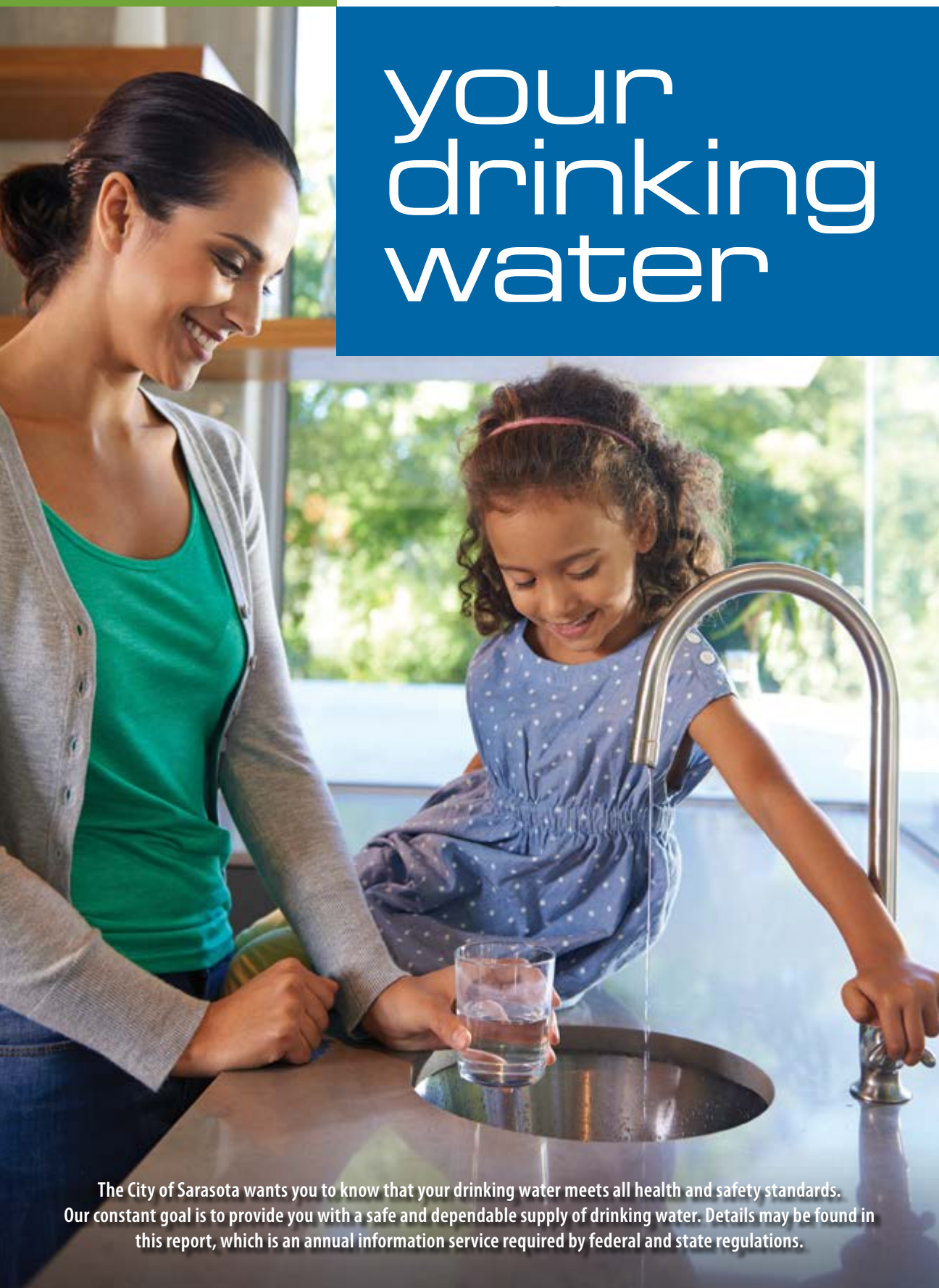
2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

City of Sarasota Utilities Department
www.sarasotagov.com

your drinking water



The City of Sarasota wants you to know that your drinking water meets all health and safety standards. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Details may be found in this report, which is an annual information service required by federal and state regulations.

Your drinking water comes from 50 deep-water wells tapping the Upper Floridan aquifer. Pumping locations include the Verna Wellfield, which is 15 miles east of the City of Sarasota; the Downtown Wellfield in the northwest area of the City of Sarasota and Bobby Jones Wellfield at the city owned Bobby Jones golf course. The raw groundwater feeds two separate treatment processes – reverse osmosis and ion exchange softening. The water is then chlorinated for disinfection purposes, degassified, and the pH is adjusted for corrosion control. These resources meet all of the City of Sarasota's water needs and will for years to come.

Origins of Contaminants Found in all Drinking Waters

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:

- 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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.

Drinking Water Report for 2015

The City of Sarasota routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state 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. The concentration of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year.

In 2015, 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. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

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 Sarasota 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.

The public is encouraged to participate in decisions that may affect your water quality. Regular Commission Meetings are scheduled for the first and third Monday of each month, or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday. The meeting begins at 2:30 pm, recesses at 4:30 pm, and reconvenes at 6:00 pm. Public input is welcomed. Regularly scheduled Commission meetings are broadcast live on the City's website or are available on Comcast Channel 19 and Verizon FiOS channel 32.

If you have any questions or concerns about Sarasota's drinking water, please contact Peter Perez at 955-2325 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

The City of Sarasota 2015 Water Quality Report

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	1/15-12/15	No	3.3	0	>5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment

Repeat testing confirms the sampling sites were free of coliform bacteria.

STAGE 1 AND 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	MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/15-12/15	No	1.5	0.3-2.4	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	1/15-12/15	No	9.4	2.8-24.0	NA	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	1/15-12/15	No	37.9	19.7-54.8	NA	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

For Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest average of the quarterly averages of all sampling points. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations.

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 Contamination
Barium (ppm)	1/14	No	0.005	0.005	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/14	No	0.458	0.458	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits. Promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	1/14	No	84.3	84.3	NA	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Results in the Level Detected column for inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	Number of sampling sites exceeded the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	6/13	No	0.07	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Samples for copper and lead were taken in customer's homes after sitting in contact with copper pipes with tin-lead solder for 6-8 hours.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Strontium POE(ppm)	1/14-7/14	1650	130-3100	Naturally-occurring element
Chlorate POE(ppm)	1/14-7/14	620	250-1000	May occur in drinking water related to use of disinfectants
Chromium (ppb)	1/14-7/14	0.2	0-0.9	Naturally-occurring element. Small amounts of chromium (III) are needed for human health.
Molybdenum (ppb)	1/14-7/14	1.4	0-5.7	Naturally-occurring element
Vanadium (ppb)	1/14-7/14	0.1	0-0.3	Naturally-occurring element
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	1/14-7/14	0.01	0-0.05	Naturally-occurring element

The City of Sarasota has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) 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) have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. 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.

The real value is clear – only tap water delivers!

Definitions

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

HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids): a group of chlorinated chemicals that include Monochloroacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Trichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid and Dibromoacetic Acid.

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.

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 technology.

MRDL (Maximum residual disinfection 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 disinfection 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 disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ppb (Parts per billion) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample. A part per billion is like one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in $10 million.

ppm (Parts per million) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample. A part per million is like one minute in two years or a single penny on $10,000.

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes): a group of chlorinated organic chemicals that include Chloroform, Bromoform, Bromodichloromethane and Dibromochloromethane.

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

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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Si tiene alguna pregunta concerniente a este reporte ó a la calidad del agua por favor llamenos Peter Perez a 955-2325. Asistencia en español esta disponible Lunes a Viernes de 7 a.m. a 3:30 p.m. If you have questions regarding this report or your drinking water, please call 955-2325. Assistance in Spanish is available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

your drinking water

CITY OF SARASOTA UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
1750 12th Street, Sarasota, FL 34236
www.sarasotagov.com

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UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling [mo.yr.]	Level Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
Strontium POE (ppm)	1/14 7/14	3100 370	Naturally-occurring element
Strontium MRT (ppm)	1/14 7/14	3000 910	
Chlorate POE (ppm)	1/14 8/14	250 1000	May occur in drinking water related to use of disinfectants
Chlorate MRT (ppm)	1/14 8/14	320 910	
Chromium POE (ppb)	7/14	0.9	Naturally-occurring element. Small amounts of chromium (lll) are needed for human health
Molybdenum POE(ppb)	7/14	1.4	Naturally-occurring element
Vanadium POE (ppb)	7/14	0.3	Naturally-occurring element
Vanadium MRT (ppb)	7/14	0.2	
Chromium, Hexavalent MRT (ppb)	1/14	0.05	Naturally-occurring element

Definitions --- MRT: farthest point in the distribution system. POE: point of entry into the distribution system. ppb: (parts per billion or micrograms per liter): one part of analyte to one billion parts of water. ppm: (parts per million of milligrams per liter) one part of analyte in 1 million parts of water.

A total of 28 analytes were performed during this monitoring period. The table includes all analytes detected. For a complete list of analytes or if you have any additional questions or concerns about Sarasota's drinking water, please contact Katherine Gusie or Peter Perez at 955-2325 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.