

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Town of Fort Myers Beach
PWS: 5364145

The Utilities Department in the Town of Fort Myers Beach is proud to present this annual drinking water quality report. This report covers all drinking water testing from January 1 to December 31, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and presented in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires monitoring of over 90 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed throughout the tables are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. The state allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently therefore, some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to your homes and businesses. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you, should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. For more information regarding this report or to request a hard copy, contact the FMB Utilities Department at (239) 463-9914. En Español Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre este informe favor del llamar a Beach Water al (239) 463-9914.

The Fort Myers Beach (FMB) Utilities Department encourages the Town's valued customers to be informed about their water utility. To learn more, please feel free to attend regularly scheduled Town Council meetings which are normally held on the first and third Mondays of the month at Town Hall, 2731 Oak Street. Check the Town's website for times at www.fmbgov.com.

Our water source is purchased from Lee County Utilities. The Green Meadows Treatment Plant treats groundwater obtained from the Sandstone, Surficial, and Lower hawthorn aquifers from the Green Meadows wellfield. This water is treated with reverse osmosis and ion exchange. This water is then blended with water from the Corkscrew Water Treatment Plant. Corkscrew Treatment Plant treats groundwater obtained from the Sandstone, Surficial, and Lower Hawthorn aquifers from the Corkscrew wellfield. This water is lime softened, chlorinated for disinfection and then fluoridated for dental purposes. This water is blended with water from the Green Meadows Treatment Plant.

In 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment for Lee County Utilities. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/> or they can be obtained from Andrea Browning, (239) 533-3137 or abrowning@leegov.com.

Town of Fort Myers Beach has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UC) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UC and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UC. 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 (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In the Test Results Table, you may find many terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not 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 which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

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

pCi/L: Picocuries Per Liter – a measure of radioactivity in water.

ppm: Parts Per Million, or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L) – one part by weight or analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

ppb: Parts Per Billion, or Micrograms Per Liter (ug/L) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detected – indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis. Locational Running Annual

Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Radioactive Contaminants				Corkscrew			Green Meadows			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of results	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	0	15	10/2020	1.6		10/2020	1		Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	N	0	5	10/2020	1.3		10/2020	1.9		Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants				Corkscrew			Green Meadows			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of results	
Arsenic (ppm)	N	0	10	03/2023	0.0011		N/A	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	N	2	2	03/2023	0.00609		03/2023	0.0015		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Cyanide (ppb)	N	200	200	03/2023	4.5		03/2023	4.1		Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	N	4	4	01/2024-12/2024	0.70	0.21-0.70	01/2024-12/2024	0.77	0.11-0.77	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (ppm)	N	10	10	03/2024	0.016		03/2024	0.014	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	N	1	1	03/2024	0.014		03/2024	0.007		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	N	50	50	03/2023	0.00119		03/2023	0.000901		Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	N	N/A	160	03/2023	66.1		03/2023	36.7		Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

Stage 1 Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products				Town of Fort Myers Beach			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine and Chloramines (ppm)	N	4.0	4.0	1/2024-12/2024	3.1	.7-4.2	Water additive used to control microbes

*-LCU performed a free chlorine flush from May 1st to May 21st. The results shown include both chloramine and chlorine results.

Stage 2 Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products				Town of Fort Myers Beach			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sample Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N	N/A	60	01/2024, 04/2024, 07/2024, 10/2024	56.15	12.1-178	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N	N/A	80	01/2024, 04/2024, 07/2024, 10/2024	58.67	11.7-182	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Two samples during 2024 had a Total Trihalomethanes result of 182 and 156 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 80 ppb. However, the system did not incur an MCL violation, because all annual average results at all sites were at or below the MCL. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Two samples during 2024 had a Haloacetic Acids result of 71 and 178 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 60 ppb. However, the system did not incur an MCL violation, because all annual average results at all sites were at or below the MCL. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)				Town of Fort Myers Beach			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90 th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	09/2024	N	0.14	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	09/2024	N	5.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (ppt)	01/23, 08/23	4.85	3.8 – 5.9

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 humans.

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 results 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 byproducts 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.

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 U.S. 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.

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. Town of Fort Myers Beach 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 Town of Fort Myers Beach at 239-765-0202. 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>.

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control 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).

As the population of Lee County grows, the demand for water increases. Even though Lee County receives a large amount of rainfall, it arrives mostly during the rainy season when demands are low. Our highest demand for water comes during our dry season when our population increases due to seasonal visitors. Approximately 60% of potable water is used for irrigation. Beach Utilities and the South Florida Management District (SFWMD) urge everyone to keep irrigation to a minimum and recommend irrigating between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. not more than twice a week. Customers are encouraged to practice water conservation throughout the year. Saving water not only helps the environment, but it helps lower your monthly bills.

Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. More information is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>.