2024
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Town of Howey in the Hills
PWS #3350573

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent 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. Our water source is the Floridan Aquifer pulling ground water from wells; we use aeration to reduce hydrogen sulfide, add chlorine for disinfection and use a polyphosphate for corrosion control.

In 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection 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. There are 3 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP SWAPP website https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/

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

*If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mark McKinnon at (352) 242-7805**.** 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. They are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the town hall.*

The Town of Howey in the Hills 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, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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 which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products 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.

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.

Millirem per year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

"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.

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

Radioactive 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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	7/24	N	2	1.1-2	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

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**
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	7/24	N	0.4	ND-0.4	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/24	N	.0094	ND-.0094	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	7/24	N	1.9	1.2-1.9	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	7/24	N	0.17	0.1-0.17	4	4.0	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 (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2/24	N	1.59	0.197-1.59	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	7/24	N	2.3	ND-2.3	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	7/24	N	9.6	6.9-9.6	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

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**
Dalapon (ppb)	7/24-12/24	N	1.8	0.022-1.8	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

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)	1/2024-12/2024	N	1.22	0.7-2.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	2/24-5/24-8/24	N	31.1	7-31.1	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2/24-5/24-8/24	N	36.4	15.6-36.4	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)								
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	8/24	N	.034	0	ND-.034	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppm)	8/24	N	1	0	ND-1.7	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

The Town of Howey in the Hills had an exceedance in disinfection by-products. We continue testing for these parameters and will inform you of any changes while we wait for the annual running average to fall below the MCL. All samples this year are below the MCL.

Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5): Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]. 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.

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. Howey in the Hills 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 the Town of Howey in the Hills. 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*.

Complete lead tap sampling results are available for review. If you would like to view a copy of results, contact the utility office

Service Line Inventory

- New state and federal laws require us to inventory all water service lines in our service area to classify the material. This initial inventory was completed prior to the deadline of October 16th, 2024. For further information contact Mark McKinnon

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 number 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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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 Howey in the Hills would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.