Hilton Head Public Service District
South Carolina ID #0720006
Water Quality Test Results
for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report provides information on the quality of your drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all drinking water suppliers to provide their customers with a water quality report on an annual basis. This report contains information on the source of your water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Hilton Head PSD is governed by an elected Board of Commissioners. The PSD Commission typically meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the PSD Community Room at our Water Resource Center at 21 Oak Park Drive off Mathews Drive on Hilton Head Island.

If you have questions about this report or about the water provided to you by the PSD, please contact PSD Water Quality Laboratory Supervisor Sarah Hickman at (843) 681-5525 or info@hhpsd.com.

Sources of Drinking Water

Hilton Head PSD obtains approximately 60 percent of its water from three (3) groundwater wells in the brackish Middle Floridan Aquifer, which is treated in the PSD's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Drinking Water Treatment Facility. The remainder of the PSD's water is obtained via wholesale purchase of treated drinking water from the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA), and from groundwater wells in the freshwater Upper Floridan Aquifer.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 required DHEC to perform a source water assessment for all drinking water supplies in South Carolina. Learn more about the state's source water protection program at https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/source-water-protection. View Hilton Head PSD's Source Water Assessment at https://hhpsd.com/publications/.

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. These substances are called "contaminants."

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and SC DHEC prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Message from the EPA

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How to Interpret Our Data

Units of Measurement

- **ppm (parts per million)**: This is the same as milligrams per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten thousand dollars.
- **ppb (parts per billion)**: This is the same as micrograms per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten million dollars.
- **ppt (parts per trillion)**: This is the same as nanograms per liter, or the equivalent of one penny out of ten billion dollars.

Water Quality Terms and Abbreviations

- **AL (Action Level)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system shall follow.
- **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 technologies.
- **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.
- **MNR (Monitoring Not Required)**: Monitoring is not required, but recommended.
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 Disinfectant 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 the disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)**: A measure of water clarity.
- **LRAA (Location Running Annual Average)**: The average concentration at a particular location for four consecutive quarters.
- **NA (Not Applicable)**: Does not apply.
- **ND (Not Detected)**: Not detected.
- **TT (Treatment Technique)**: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated and Unregulated Water Quality Monitoring

Hilton Head PSD routinely monitors your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The data below shows monitoring results for the most recent testing period. All were below the regulatory limits.

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products						
Constituent	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Chloramine	4 ppm	4 ppm	RAA = 2 Range = 1.56 – 2.06	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	NA	60 ppb	LRAA = 1.7 Range = ND – 23.5	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	NA	80 ppb	LRAA = 2.1 Range = 2.7 – 26.1	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic						
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.38 Range = ND – 0.38	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Highest Level Detected = 0.044 Range = ND – 0.044	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	MNR (ppm)	NA	Highest Level Detected = 37 Range = 18 – 37	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper							
Constituent	MCLG	AL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL?	Typical Source
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90^{th} Percentile = 0.056 Range = 0.00099 – 0.13	2024	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	0 ppb	15 ppb	90^{th} Percentile = 1.0 Range = 0 – 18	2024	0	No	

If present, 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. Hilton Head PSD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Hilton Head PSD at (843) 681-5525 or e-mail: info@hhpsd.com. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Hilton Head PSD's service line inventory and lead tap sampling data are available for review at our office.

Unregulated Contaminants – Hilton Head PSD Groundwater Wells				
Constituent	Detect in Your Water (ppb)	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Lithium	Average Level Detected = 10.1 Range = 9.69 – 10.6	2024	No	Lithium is a naturally occurring metal, has numerous commercial uses and is likely found in a variety of foods

Unregulated Contaminants – Wholesale Water (BJWSA)				
Constituent	Detect in Your Water (ppt)	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
PFBS	Average Level Detected = 4.25 Range = 4.2 – 4.3	2024	No	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities
PFOS	Average Level Detected = 5.15 Range = 5.1 – 5.2	2024	No	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities
PFOA	Average Level Detected = 4.9 Range = 4.7 – 5.1	2024	No	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities
PFPeA	Average Level Detected = 1.5 Range = ND – 3	2024	No	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024, Hilton Head PSD participated in the fifth round of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). To view EPA's national database of UCMR5 results and learn more, visit: https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder

Regulated Water Quality Monitoring

Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA)

South Carolina ID #0720003

Constituent	MCLG	MCL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Turbidity	N/A	TT = 1 NTU	0.45 NTU	2024	No	Soil runoff
		TT = 95% of samples < 0.30 NTU	100%			

Organic						
Constituent	MCLG	MCL	Detect in Your Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT = 35% – 50% removal is required	43.6% – 72.2%	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment