

What you should know about your...

# Drinking Water

CITY OF TAMARAC 2010 QUALITY REPORT – EAST

## Drink with Confidence!

The City of Tamarac is pleased to provide you with this annual Water Quality Report. This report contains important information about the City's water source, water supply, the treatment process, the contents of your drinking water and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The results in this report are compiled from tests performed in 2010 on the water supply. Tamarac Utilities is committed to providing you with information about your water supply, because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvement necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

### Water Conservation – Creating a Culture of Conservation

Water conservation should always be practiced, not only during droughts. It's cheaper to save water than waste it. Every drop that flows down your drain or spills into your gutter unused is a drop you pay for twice – first, in the form of higher water bills, and second in the form of higher sewage bills. If that wasted water is heated, your gas or electric bill is higher, too. Who says conservation doesn't pay?

Outside Your Home – Approximately 50% of all water use is for outdoor use.

- Irrigate only on your assigned days of the week.
- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn and plants, not on the pavement.
- Check sprinkler systems for leaks, line breaks, and clogged heads regularly.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil.
- If it rains, turn off your irrigation system. A heavy rain can eliminate the need for watering for up to two weeks. Lawns only need one inch of water per week.



Inside Your Home – Most changes don't take any more time. It's just a question of looking at something in a different way with an eye toward making the most efficient use of water.

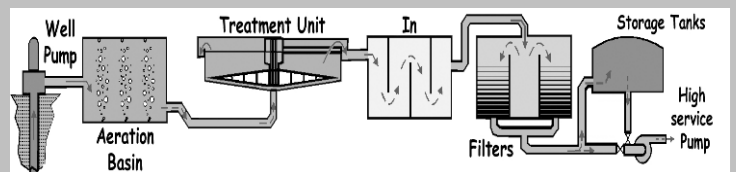
- Fix faucet, toilet and showerhead leaks.
- Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Sing a shorter song in the shower. Cutting one minute from your shower will reduce water use and electricity for heating the water.



## The Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by the City of Ft. Lauderdale and delivered through the City of Tamarac's water distribution system

- The water starts with a safe reliable source – **the Biscayne Aquifer**. Rain seeps through layers of sand, clay, and limestone that filters and purifies the water.
- The first step takes place in a huge mixing unit called an accelerator. Here, lime and coagulants are added to remove some hardness and make the water aesthetically pleasing.
- Chlorine is also added as a disinfectant to prevent growth of bacteria.
- The next step is filtration to remove any sediment in the water.
- Finally, fluoride is added to promote dental health.
- When the process is completed, clean, safe drinking water is delivered to our customers.



### Source Water Assessment

As part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment (SWA) on our system in 2009. The SWA results for the City of Fort Lauderdale are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

### How healthy is bottled water?

All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## Get the facts... Where does the water come from?

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 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, 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 at 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. The City of Fort Lauderdale is responsible for providing 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 your potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visiting the EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Water Quality Report Card

*January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010*  
City of Tamarac – East of NW 31 Ave (Zip Code 33309)

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
Arsenic (ppb)	7/10	N	0.9	ND – 0.9	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/10	N	0.003	ND-0.003	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	7/10	N	0.767	0.716-0.767	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm.
Nickel (ppb)	7/10	N	1	0.4 - 1	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	7/10	N	0.064	ND-0.064	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	7/10	N	31.7	25.1-31.7	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

### Stage 1 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
Chloramines (ppm)	1/1/10-12/31/00	N	2.7	0.33 – 4.9	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	2/10, 5/10, 8/10,11/10	N	19.3	0.3-44.1	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2/09, 5/09, 8/09,11/09	N	24.4	0.2-55.8	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	1/1/10-12/31/10	N	0	0	Presence of Coliform bacteria in one sample monthly	Naturally present in the environment

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo /yr)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/09	N	0.0916	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/09	N	3.4	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits. 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 Tamarac 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 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a> .

All 10 samples were below EPA action levels for lead and copper

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**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.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** - one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal" is 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.

**Not Detected (ND)** - Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

The Tamarac Water Report is produced by the  
Utilities Department of the City of Tamarac Florida

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Commissioner, District #1

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For more information, please call Fran Oney,  
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Laboratory 954-597-3776

For billing questions, please contact Customer Service  
954-597-3590

For questions on water service, please contact the  
Utilities Department 954-597-3750

[www.tamarac.org](http://www.tamarac.org)

### **Permanent Water Restrictions are in Effect!**

Restrictions apply to all traditional sources of water –  
from a utility, a private well or withdrawals from a canal,  
lake or pond. Low-volume systems such as drip, bubble  
and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root  
plant zones may be used any time.

Landscape irrigation for all property types and sizes is  
allowed two days a week on this schedule:

- **ODD-number address:** Wednesday and Saturday
- **EVEN-number address, no street address, both odd and even address within the same zones:** Thursday and Sunday
- **Watering is not allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

Water restrictions are subject to change depending  
on water conditions. Please watch the news  
or your water bill for changes.

Esta informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.



2010 Water  
Quality  
Report

City of Tamarac  
Utilities Department  
10101 State Street  
Tamarac, FL 33321

