

# 2022 Water Quality Report



The Utilities Department  
at 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, 2022.

En Español Si usted tiene algu-  
na pregunta sobre este informe  
favor del llamar a Beach Water al  
(239) 463-9914.

## Community Participation

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 Diamondhead Beach Resort, 2000 Estero Boulevard. Check the Town's website for times at [www.fmbgov.com](http://www.fmbgov.com).

**For more information regarding this report or to request a hard copy,  
contact the FMB Utilities Department at (239) 463-9914.**

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.

## Source of drinking water

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.

## All drinking water may contain contaminants

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Maximum Contaminant Levels are very stringent. A person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effects. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Lead in home plumbing

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. We are 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>.

## Where do we get water?

### 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.

## Source water assessment

In 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment for Lee County Utilities. The assessment results are available on the DEP SWAPP website at <https://fdep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/> or they can be obtained from Lee County Utilities at 239-533-8845.

## Important health information

The EPA has determined that water is safe for most people at the MCL level. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water including those with cancer undergoing chemo, organ transplants, HIV/AIDS and some elderly and infants.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control have guidelines about ways to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants. These guidelines are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Water Conservation

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.

## Boil water notices

Precautionary Boil Water Notices are placed into effect when pressure to a water main drops below 20 psi. This usually occurs during a water main break or a scheduled utility repair. While such repairs are being conducted, open pipes could be exposed to dirt or debris. Once repairs or services are completed, the pipes are flushed with chlorine to kill any bacteria that may be present. After flushing, the pipes are put back into service and water is restored to homes and businesses. To ensure safety precautions, the Florida Department of Health requires utilities to issue a Boil Water Notice until bacteriological tests confirm that the water is safe to drink. During this period of confirmation, boiling water for use in cooking or consumption kills any bacteria potentially present. Bottled water may be used as an alternative. If placed under a Boil Water Notice, call the Utility Department at 239-463-9914



# 2022 Test Results (non-secondary contaminants table)

FMB Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The enclosed tables show the results of our monitoring for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2022 and include test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2022, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Corkscrew			Green Meadows			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	0	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	1.6	N/A	10/20	1	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	N	0	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	1.3	N/A	10/20	1.9	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Corkscrew			Green Meadows			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	
Barium (ppm)	N	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	0.00446	N/A	10/20	0.00328	N/A	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (ppb)	N	200	200	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	4.4	N/A	10/20	3.3	N/A	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	N	4	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/22 - 12/22	0.89	0.21-0.89	1/22 - 12/22	0.82	0.12 - 0.82	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm.
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	N	10	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/22	0.010	N/A	4/22	0.013	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (as N) (ppm)	N	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/22	0.012	N/A	4/22	0.006	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	N	N/A	160	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	40.2	N/A	10/20	56.3	N/A	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MRDL Violation Y/N	MRDLG	MRDL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	
Chlorine & Chloramines (ppm) *	N	4.0	4.0	1/22 - 12/22	3.3	2.4 - 3.9	1/22 - 12/22	3.4	0.6 - 4.5	Water additive used to control microbes.

\* Lee County Utilities performed a free chlorine flush from July 1st - July 21st, 2022. The results shown include both chloramine and chlorine results.

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N	N/A	60	2/22, 4/22	16.75	12.0 - 21.0	1/22, 4/22, 8/22, 10/22	26.21	0.8 - 41.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N	N/A	80	2/22, 4/22	20.50	18.0 - 23.0	1/22, 4/22, 8/22, 10/22	22.48	ND - 27.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

LEAD and COPPER (Tap Water)				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities			Likely Source of Contamination
Contaminant and unit of measurement	AL Exceeded Y/N	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	90th Percentile Result	Sites Exceeding the AL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	90th Percentile Result	Sites Exceeding the AL	
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	N	1.3	1.3	7/21	0.049	0	8/21	0.044	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	N	0	15	7/21	1.3	0	8/21	1.4	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Note: For chloramines, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids and TTHM, the level detected is the highest LRAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly.

Range of results is the range of individual sample results for all monitoring locations. Note: Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants and inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.

The FMB Utilities Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules and regulations. The FMB Utilities Department collects water samples and conducts water quality tests using the certified laboratory of the Lee County Florida Department of Health to ensure that the public water supply is safe for human consumption. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022 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 for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently therefore, some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

## Definitions

In the tables on the previous page, 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 a 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.

