

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and service we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We at St. Lucie West Services District 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 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.

St. Lucie West Services District: Who We Are

The St. Lucie West Services District is in St. Lucie County, FL and was established in 1990 under Florida Statute Chapter 190. We are a master planned community development district that serves approximately 7,000 water customers across 4,600 acres. Our service area extends from Florida's Turnpike to I-95 and from Canal C-108 near Torino to Crosstown Parkway.

Our Staff and Service Departments

Our team includes more than 55 professionals who provide essential utility and public works services through two core departments: Utilities and Public Works.

The district is governed by a five-member board of supervisors, each of whom is a community resident. The board oversees budgets and operations to ensure efficient and responsive service.

The Utilities Department operates a 3.6 million gallon per day (MGD) reverse osmosis water treatment plant and a 2.6 MGD wastewater treatment plant. Water is sourced from the Floridan Aquifer, treated, and delivered to customers. Wastewater is reclaimed and reused for irrigation through a system that blends stormwater with treated effluent. Dedicated teams manage potable water treatment systems, wastewater treatment systems, water distribution and sewer collection systems, and irrigation infrastructure.

The Public Works Department maintains stormwater systems, wetlands, preserves, retention ponds, road rights-of-way, and storm gates to help reduce flood risks, especially during heavy rainfall. Key divisions include Stormwater, Aquatics, and Exotic Plant Removal.

Our executive and administrative team supports customer service, billing, communications, and overall district operations.

We are committed to serving our customers and supporting the employees who make that service possible. Maintaining a skilled and professional workforce with a strong focus on customer service is essential to delivering reliable and high-quality service to the St. Lucie West community.

We work alongside the City of Port St. Lucie, which provides services such as traffic control, road maintenance, and public safety. The St. Lucie West Services District focuses on essential services including water, wastewater, and stormwater management.

For more information about our organization, or to learn more about what a community development district is and how it affects you as a resident or commercial property owner in St. Lucie West, please visit slwsd.org.



Where Does My Water Come From?

Our water source is groundwater from three Floridan Aquifer wells. Wells 2 and 3 are located on the water treatment plant site, and Well 1 is located on Southwest Bethany Drive. This source water is then pumped to the St. Lucie West (SLW) reverse osmosis water treatment plant, chlorinated for disinfection, and chemically balanced for infrastructure corrosion control. The water is then stored in aboveground potable storage tanks for public distribution.



Source Water Assessment

In 2025 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a source water assessment (SWA) on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are eight potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. A SWA report for this system is available at the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

Important Health Information

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 or epa.gov/safewater.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Rick Riniolo at (772) 340-0220. You may pick up a copy of this report at 450 Southwest Utility Drive, Port St. Lucie.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures is caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order.

Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heat setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill.

Also keep in mind that a tap that is used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains, so if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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:

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, urban 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; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

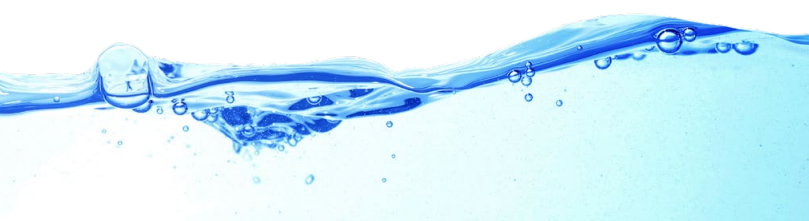
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

St. Lucie West Community Participation

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. The meeting schedule is on our website. These meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at St. Lucie West Services District Administration Building, 450 Southwest Utility Drive, Port St. Lucie.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (epa.gov) and CDC (cdc.gov) provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. The Florida DEP's website (floridadep.gov/water) provides complete and current information on water issues in Florida, including valuable information about our watershed.



Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil, and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested many water samples for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria.

Federal regulations require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Water Stress

Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the amount available during a certain period or when poor water quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer overexploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.).

According to the World Resources Institute (wri.org), the Middle East and North Africa remain the most water-stressed regions on Earth. However, several states in the western half of the U.S. are similarly experiencing extremely high levels of water stress from overuse. It is clear that even in countries with low overall water stress, individual communities may still experience extremely stressed conditions. For example, South Africa and the United States rank 48 and 71 on WRI's list, respectively, yet the Western Cape (the state home to Cape Town) and New Mexico experience extremely high stress levels.

There are undeniably worrying trends in water quality. But by taking action now and investing in better management, we can solve water issues before it's too late.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breast-fed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. St. Lucie West Services District 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or 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 it tested, contact St. Lucie West Services District at (772) 340-0220. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

No Lead Service Lines or Galvanized Requiring Replacement Service Lines

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service line inventory has been prepared and is available upon request. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Microplastics in Drinking Water

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles smaller than a grain of rice that are now being detected in oceans, rivers, soils, and even the air. Scientists have also identified microplastics in drinking water supplies worldwide. These particles come from the breakdown of larger plastic products, synthetic clothing fibers, tire wear, and many everyday consumer items. Because plastics degrade slowly, microplastics are becoming increasingly widespread in the environment.

Modern water treatment processes, including filtration and sedimentation, remove a large portion of microplastics from source water. Advanced treatments, such as granular-activated carbon and membrane filtration, can further reduce microplastic levels.

Consumers interested in minimizing microplastic exposure can use certified drinking water filters, reduce single-use plastic consumption, and support responsible plastic recycling and waste reduction efforts.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of these sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. *Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Complete Lead Tap Sampling Data

The enclosed table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please contact Rick Riniolo at (772) 340-0220.



PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Contaminants

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Cyanide (ppb)	No	6/2023	5	NA	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	No	6/2023	0.69	NA	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; Water additive that promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	No	6/2023	51.0	NA	NA	160	Saltwater intrusion; Leaching from soil

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

For bromate, chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine (ppm)	No	01-12/2025	2.0	1.8–2.0	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

For haloacetic acids and TTHMs, the level detected is the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all individual samples collected during the past year.

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	No	7/2025	12.5	2.5–12.5	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	No	7/2025	13.9	9.1–13.9	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper (ppm)	No	2023	0.06	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	No	2023	1.00	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting buildings to water mains; Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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 technology.

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.

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 disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

St. Lucie West Services District routinely monitors for contaminants in our 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 from January 1 to December 31, 2025. Data obtained before January 1, 2025, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We have been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. EPA determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether these contaminants need to be regulated. For example, we participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. At present, no health standards (e.g., maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UCs. 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 U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Q&A

Why can tap water have a taste?

Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

Why is water sometimes called the “original energy drink”?

Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?

Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?

Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?

Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

Is Fluoride added to the water?

As of December 2024, the chemical addition of Fluoride is no longer being used for the SLWSD drinking water supply, to comply with the directive from the Florida State Surgeon General.



Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It's not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips.

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria, such as coliforms, ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.