



# Marion County Board of County Commissioners

## Utilities

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**Annual Drinking Water  
Quality Report for 2021  
West Side Consolidated**  
Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection Public  
Water System ID # 6421144

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of quality drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect your water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

The source of our water is groundwater from twenty-three interconnected wells and 13 water treatment facilities. The wells draw from the Floridan aquifer, one of the world's most protected sources. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes, aerated and filtered for sediment removal, and treated with a chemical additive to inhibit corrosion. In 2021 the 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 three potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results 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).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility please contact **Marion County Utilities, (352) 307-4630** during normal business hours. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Marion County Utilities routinely monitors for constituents 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, 2021. Data obtained before January 1, 2020 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS FOR MARION COUNTY UTILITIES - WEST SIDE CONSOLIDATED								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters	(pCi/L)	Apr - May '20	No	8.9	ND - 8.9	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228	(pCi/L)		No	3.4	0.4 - 3.4	0	5	
Uranium	(pCi/L)		No	1.7	0.3 - 1.7	0	30	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Antimony	(ppb)	Apr - May '20	No	0.4	ND - 0.4	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic	(ppb)	Apr - May '20	No	1.4	0.2 - 1.4	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	(ppm)	Apr - May '20	No	0.014	0.005 - 0.014	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	(ppm)	Apr - May '20	No	0.26	ND - 0.26	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 1.2 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	(ppm)	Mar - Oct '21	No	6.5	ND - 6.5	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	(ppb)	Apr - May '20	No	8.6	ND - 8.6	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium	(ppm)	Apr - May '20	No	19	5.4 - 19	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion; leaching from soil
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products								
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	(ppm)	2021	No	0.9 average	0.3 - 1.6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA <sub>5</sub> )	(ppb)	Feb - Nov '21	No	4.02	ND - 6.38	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total trihalomethane (tTHM)	(ppb)	Feb - Nov '21	No	24.2	6.83 - 24.2	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Yes / No	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	(ppm)	Feb '21	No	0.82	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Secondary Contaminants								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement		Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	(ppm)	Jul '20	Yes*	560	140 - 560	N/A	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

\*Secondary Contaminants are not considered to be health concerns, but may present aesthetic issues. TDS exceeded allowable maximum at one of our distribution system sources, resulting in a secondary MCL violation. We'll continue to monitor TDS, no corrective treatment or action is necessary at this time.

In the table presented you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions (please note not all definitions may pertain to your report):

- Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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.
- 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 growth.
- 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 contamination.
- ND – This abbreviation means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per Liter (mg/L) - one part of analyte (by weight) to 1 million parts of water sample (by weight).
- Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per Liter (µg/L) - one part of analyte (by weight) to 1 billion parts of water sample (by weight).
- Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - measure of the radioactivity in water.

### What does this mean?

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and as you can see from the table, we had no violations of water quality for 2021. We have learned there were a few issues with our testing, all of which have been corrected. Lead & Copper tap samples were collected in September of 2021 and all results were satisfactory, therefore its occurrence did not present a health threat. Unfortunately, the data was not reported until after the required due date and we had a late reporting violation. We were also cited with a missed monitoring violation because one of our required tests, Disinfection Byproducts, was sampled in the wrong month. Please read the "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER", at the end of this report for our Public Notification and explanation of the occurrence.

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. Marion County Utilities 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 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 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- e. Radioactive contaminants, which may 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA (Food & Drug Administration) 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.

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 from their health care providers about their drinking water. EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER** **Monitoring Requirements Not Met for West Side Consolidated**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We sample for Disinfection Byproducts quarterly, and collected a satisfactory sample during the first quarter, on March 23, 2022. The sample should have been collected in our approved month of February, and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

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 system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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

**What should you do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or use an alternative water supply.

**What happened? What is being done?** We are required to sample during the approved month on our sampling plan. We did collect samples during the first quarter of 2022, in March. The results of all samples collected were satisfactory.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This information is being provided to you by Marion County Utilities for West Side Consolidated, State Water System ID#: 6421144. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call our office at (352) 307-4630.

Date distributed: June 06, 2022 - June 14, 2022