

# 2012 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
AT YOUR SERVICE

# 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## City of Zephyrhills

### PWS # 651-2020

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water drawn from wells. The wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer.

In 2012 the Florida 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 two potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a moderate 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) or they can be obtained from the City of Zephyrhills Utilities Department. Our Public Water System ID number is 6512020.

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water sources. The water is first chlorinated for disinfection purposes and then treated with a corrosion control inhibitor to prevent excessive corrosion throughout our water system.

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

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact David Henderson, Director of Utilities, at 5335 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Zephyrhills, Fl. 33542 (City Hall) or phone him at 813-780-0008.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled council meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Mondays at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

The City of Zephyrhills routinely monitors for contaminants 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, 2012. Data obtained before January 1, 2012, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the tables of this report you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.

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

**Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE):** An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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 residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

"ND" means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/l}$ ) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - measure of the radioactivity in water.

### Water Quality Testing Results: Microbiological

**Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	01/12 - 12/12	N	0	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in more than 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

### Water Quality Testing Results: Radioactive

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
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	10/11	N	2.8	ND – 2.8	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 plus 228 (pCi/l)	10/11	N	0.9	0.4 – 0.9	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (µg/L)	10/11	N	1.70	0.21 – 1.7	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits

### Water Quality Testing Results: Inorganics

**Nitrates:** As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in our area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

While your drinking water meets USEPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Lead:** Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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
Antimony (ppb)	06/11	N	0.11	ND - 0.11	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium (ppm)	06/11	N	0.011	0.0025 - 0.011	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	06/11	N	1.3	ND – 1.3	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	06/11	N	0.21	ND - 0.21	4	4	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
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	06/11	N	0.54	ND – 0.54	N/A	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead-pipe, casings, and solder
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	07/12	N	3.4	0.49 – 3.4	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	06/11	N	18	6.3 - 18	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Thallium (ppb)	06/11	N	0.062	ND – 0.062	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories

### Water Quality Testing Results: Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

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 Zephyrhills 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>.

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)	07/11 - 08/11	N	0.37	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/11 - 08/11	N	1.4	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Water Quality Testing Results: 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. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations, including Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) results as well as Stage 1 compliance results.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	01/12 - 12/12	N	1.01	0.70 - 1.30	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	08/12	N	9.06	ND - 9.06	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids (five) (ppb)	08/12	N	3.05	ND - 3.05	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the tables herein are the only contaminants detected in your drinking 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:

- (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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) 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, 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA / CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. In example, we are developing two new wells to help in providing future water supply. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

In 2012 the City of Zephyrhills began construction on two new well sites with a projected completion date of April 2013. These well sites are located on Richland Road in the northeast section of our service area.

The employees of the City of Zephyrhills Utilities Department work very hard to provide quality water to every customer. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our precious water source so that we will continue our proud heritage of being the **"City of Pure Water"**.