Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

Indian River County Utilities
1840 25th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Proudly Presented By:

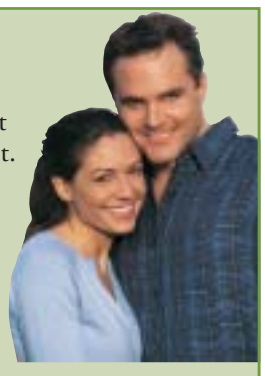
Indian River County Utilities

Annual Water Quality Report

Water testing performed in 2004

PWS ID#: FL3314052

Continuing Our Commitment



Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2004. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Gerald LeBeau, Water Production Superintendent, at (772) 770-5068.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Indian River County Utility customers are fortunate because they enjoy an abundant water supply from two sources. The Hobart Water Treatment Plant draws water from the Floridan Aquifer and is treated by a reverse osmosis process. Our second water source is from the Oslo Water Treatment Plant, which also draws from this underground water supply and is treated by a reverse osmosis process. Combined, our treatment facilities provide roughly 2.8 billion gallons of clean drinking water every year.

Our water supply source is groundwater drawn from nine wells from the Floridan Aquifer that averages 700 feet deep. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has a Web site (www.dep.state.fl.us) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our state.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITY SERVICES IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT YOUR WATER IS SAFE AND YOUR UTILITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS. WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE CONFIDENCE YOU CONTINUE TO PLACE IN US. THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF UTILITY SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO PROVIDE YOU, THE CUSTOMER, WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF WATER AVAILABLE.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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.

Contamination from Cross-Connections

Cross-connections that could 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 when 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 all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, visit the Web site of the American Backflow Prevention Association for a discussion on current issues (www.abpa.org).

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED[1]	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Inorganic Contaminants							
Asbestos (MFL)	03/02	No	0.94	ND-0.94	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	01/02	No	0.0086	0.0054-0.0086	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	01/02	No	10.0	ND-10	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	01/02	No	0.879	0.869-0.879	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppb)	01/02	No	3.1	ND-3.1	NA	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (ppm)	03/04	No	0.009	ND-0.018	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	01/02	No	0.0725	0.068-0.0725	NA	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	HIGHEST MONTHLY PERCENTAGE/ NUMBER	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliforms (% positive samples)	2004 (monthly)	**Yes**	5.7	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED[2]	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
TTHMs and Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters							
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2004 (quarterly)	No	4.19375	2.2-6.95	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2004 (quarterly)	No	46.19	30.6-54.3	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

[1] Results in the *Level Detected* column for inorganic contaminants, are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

[2] The *Level Detected* is the annual average of the quarterly averages and the *Range of Results* column indicates the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.

Table Definitions

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

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.

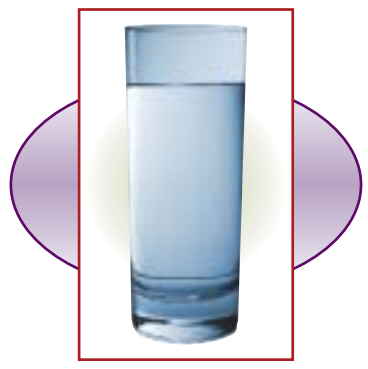
MFL (Million Fibers per liter): Measurement of the amount of fibrous material in one liter of sample.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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).



Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

In order 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 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 amount 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.

About Our Violations

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed in the reporting month of May 2004 and this was a warning of potential problems. Results of the coliform analysis have been received and properly recorded as required by state and federal law. As required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), resampling was completed and found to be satisfactory.

As a result of an administrative oversight in the fourth quarter of 2004, we neglected to submit on time a report as required by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The reports included results on trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). At no time did this incident pose a threat to public health and safety, nor did it have any impact on the high quality drinking water provided to our customers. To ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future, we have implemented a scheduling system that will automatically notify us when reports are due to be submitted.

We are currently in compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations.

Is it Safe to Drink Water From a Garden Hose?

No. Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pets' drinking containers. There are hoses made with "food-grade" plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.