



Destin Water Users, Inc.



2024

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

for Destin Water Users, Inc.

This report is available on our website to all our customers and in the Destin Water Users, Inc. Administrative Office located at 218 Main St., Destin, FL.

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The water quality report is an annual publication that is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources are ground water from our six coastal wells and water purchased from South Walton Utility Company, Inc. (SWUCI). The wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water source, the only treatments required at Destin Water Users, Inc. (DWU) and South Walton Utility Company are chlorine and/or sodium hypochlorite for disinfection purposes.

DWU 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, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and presented in this report, are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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 storm water 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 can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the number 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In the tables on the pages to follow, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions in alphabetical order:

- **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 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.
- **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 (mg/L):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 trillion parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** Measure of the radioactivity in water.



Figure 1: A visual representation of concentrations. If a drop of water is 0.05 mL, then a drop in a large bucket (50 L) is 1 ppm. A drop in a 24-foot above-ground swimming pool (50,000 L) is 1 ppb. A single drop spread across 20 Olympic size swimming pools (totaling 50,000,000 L) is 1 ppt.

2024 Contaminants Tables

Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products (Note: Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.)							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine - (ppm)	01-12/24	N	1.13 (Average)	1.03-1.30	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	08/24	N	2.8	ND-2.8	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	08/24	N	19.0	7.9-19.0	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Unregulated Contaminants (Note: Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.)				
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Lithium (ppb)	02/24, 08/24	14.6	ND-22.9	Natural occurring element and may be found at higher concentrations in certain parts of the country, particularly in groundwater sources in arid locations

Destin Water Users, Inc. has been monitoring for Unregulated Contaminants (UC) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of Unregulated Contaminants (UC) and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UC. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. South Walton Utilities sampled for Unregulated Contaminants in 2023. If you would like to view their results, please contact Jared Duncan, Water Operations Manager, at South Walton Utility at (850) 837-2988. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In some of our contaminant tables you may notice results that have been obtained before 2024. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one-year old.

Inorganic Contaminants

(Note: Data is a compilation of Destin Water Users, Inc. and South Walton Utility Company, Inc.)

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
Barium (ppm)	01/23, 08/23	N	0.19	0.012-0.19	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	08/23	N	0.9	06-0.9	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	01/23, 08/23	N	1.1	0.03-1.1	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	08/23	N	7.3	0.2-7.3	0	15	Residue from man- made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nickel (ppb)	08/23	N	0.8	ND-0.8	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland
Selenium (ppb)	01/23	N	3.1	ND-3.1	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	01/23, 08/23	N	140	1.5-140	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
Thallium (ppb)	08/23	N	0.1	ND-0.1	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Radioactive Contaminants

(Note: Data is a compilation of Destin Water Users, Inc. and South Walton Utility Company, Inc.)

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)	08/17, 05/23	N	7.5	ND-7.5	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	08/17, 05/23, & 08/23	N	1.8	ND-1.8	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants

(Note: Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Aluminum (ppm)	08/23, 10/23	Y*	0.31	ND-0.31	N/A	0.2	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Odor (threshold odor number)	08/23, 10/23	Y*	16	1-16	N/A	3	Natural occurring organics

Note: We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Our water system was in violation of federal and state water quality standards for the secondary inorganic contaminants (non-health based) Odor and Aluminum in 2023. Secondary contaminants are naturally occurring and are aesthetic violations, and they are not considered to have major health effects. The levels of Aluminum and Odor are shown in the Secondary Contaminants test results table above. Testing for these parameters are triennially and will be sampled again in 2026.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

(Note: Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Violation (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	07/23	N	0.1	0 of 30	0.0096-0.15	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/23	N	2.2	0 of 30	ND-3.7	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Destin Water Users, Inc. (DWU) 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 the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water 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, 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 your water tested, contact DWU at (850) 837-6146. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has revised the Lead and Copper rule for all public drinking water systems. They have mandated that drinking water systems produce an inventory list of all service line material. The service line is the piping that extends from our water main to the customer's meter as well as the piping that extends from the meter to the customer's home. Destin Water Users, Inc. (DWU) has prepared this inventory in accordance with federal regulations. To view this service line inventory, contact our office at (850) 837-6146.

Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings and fixtures may cause metals, including lead and copper, to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, DWU conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites triennially. The most recent set of lead and copper tap sampling is available for review. To view the lead and copper tap sampling data, contact DWU's Water Production and Reclamation Manager, Logan Law, at (850) 837-6146 ext. 3939.

In 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FDEP, performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and the system from whom we purchase water. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are twenty-three potential sources of contamination identified for Destin Water User's system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. There are thirteen potential sources of contamination for South Walton Utility Company with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800- 426-4791.

We at Destin Water Users, Inc. work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

One way to help protect water resources is by using reclaimed, a.k.a. reuse, water. Reuse is an integral part of water resources management, wastewater management and ecosystem management in Florida. It reduces demands on valuable surface and ground waters used for drinking water sources, eliminates discharges that may pollute valuable surface waters, recharges ground water, and postpones costly investment for development of new water sources. In

2024, Florida's water reuse program reclaimed an average of 820 million gallons of water per day. This reclaimed water was used for various beneficial purposes like irrigation (golf courses, residential, agricultural), groundwater recharge, and industrial uses. Reuse water is a critical component of meeting the state's existing and future water supply needs while sustaining natural systems. Destin Water Users, Inc. is proud to be one of Florida's progressive companies which has helped water resource management in the state by offering the ability to use reuse water instead of drinking (or potable) water to irrigate lawns.

To find out if reclaimed water is available in your neighborhood, contact DWU's customer service at 850-837-6146 or CS@dwuinc.com.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements to our water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary to address these improvements. Thank you for understanding.

If you have any other questions about the SWAPP information, this report, or concerning your water utility, please contact DWU's Water Production and Reclamation Manager, Logan Law, at (850) 837-6146 ext. 3939 during office hours. We encourage you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at 4pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Destin Water Users, Inc. main office, which is located at 218 Main Street, Destin, FL 32541.