



Destin Water Users, Inc.



2023

**DRINKING WATER
QUALITY REPORT**

2023 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, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, 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 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)**: 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.
- **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L)**: Measure of the radioactivity in water.

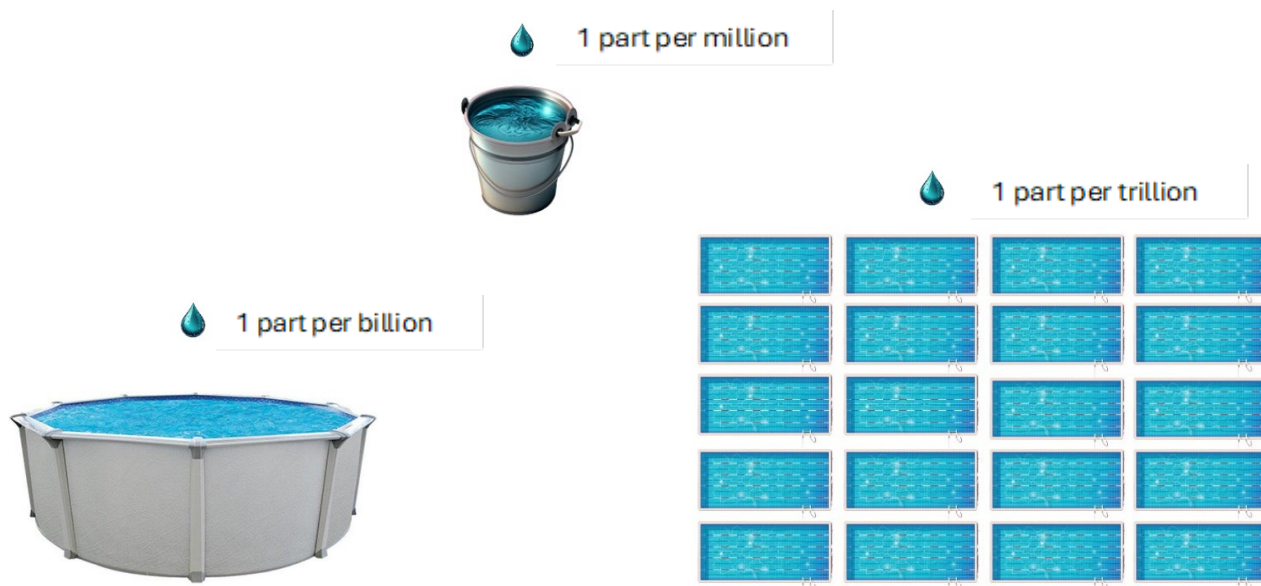


Figure 1: A visual representation of concentrations. If a drop of water is 0.05 mL, then a drop in a large bucket (50 L) is 1 ppm. A drop in a 24-foot above-ground swimming pool (50,000 L) is 1 ppb. A single drop spread across 20 Olympic size swimming pools (totaling 50,000,000 L) is 1 ppt.

2023 Contaminants Tables

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

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)	01-12/23	N	1.10 (Average)	0.95-1.25	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)	08/23	N	1.5	ND-1.5	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	08/23	N	15.3	5.6-15.3	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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 for 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.

Unregulated Contaminants (Note: Data sampled by South Walton Utility Company, Inc.)				
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	Level Detected (average)	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Lithium (ppb)	02/23, 08/23	14.59	ND-29.1	Natural occurring element and may be found at higher concentrations in certain parts of the country, particularly in groundwater sources in arid locations
Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS) (ppb)	02/23, 08/23	0.0013	ND-0.0014	Manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Lead and Copper (Tap Water)</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Note: Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.)</p>							
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)	07/23	N	0.1	0 of 30	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	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

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. DWU 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>.

In 2023, 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-two potential sources of contamination identified for Destin Water User's system with a low susceptibility level. There are eleven 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.

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 Operations Superintendent Judd Mooso at (850) 337-3915 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.

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 water. Over the years, many progressive communities have found uses for reclaimed, a.k.a. reuse, water to conserve fresh water supplies. Florida's water reuse program reclaimed approximately 738 million gallons per day in 2015 alone. In a single year, Floridians saved more than 144 billion gallons of fresh water while adding more than 86 billion gallons back to available groundwater supplies. 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 those progressive companies that has helped water resource management in Florida 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 850-836-6146 or CS@dwuinc.com.

Water Conservation

Take a moment to learn a few facts and tips on how you can help conserve water.



- Leaks can waste as much as **180 gallons** of water per week. Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.
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- Running the dishwasher only when it's full can eliminate one load of dishes per week and save the average family nearly **320 gallons** of water annually.
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- Letting your faucet run for 5 minutes while washing dishes can waste **10 gallons** of water. Turn off the water when you are scrubbing your dishes before rinsing them.
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- Replacing showerheads with WaterSense labeled models can reduce the average family's water costs & can save the average family more than **2,700 gallons** of water per year.
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- The average family can save **13,000 gallons** of water and \$130 in water costs per year by replacing all old, inefficient toilets in their home with WaterSense labeled models.
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- Replacing a clock-based controller with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can reduce an average home's irrigation water use by up to 30 percent and can save an average home up to **15,000 gallons** of water annually.
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For more info visit www.epa.gov/watersense/statistics-and-facts.