

# Everglades City

## PWS ID# 5110089

### 2026 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

*Este informe continene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúscalo ó hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.*

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this report, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

#### WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

The water source for Everglades City is ground water which is withdrawn from two wells in the Surficial Aquifer. The water is treated by reverse osmosis then disinfected to destroy microbes prior to delivery to customers.

#### HOW WE ENSURE YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

We routinely monitor 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, 2025. Data obtained before January 1, 2025 and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

#### ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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.

#### FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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 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).

#### HOW TO REACH US

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Matt Gillispie with Florida Utility Solutions at 239-513-0445. The Everglades City office is open from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

#### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PLAN

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2025 and a search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near our wells. 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).

#### HOW TO READ THE TABLE

The terms used in the water quality summary table and in other parts of this report are defined below.

**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 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. **N/A** – not applicable.

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

**ppm** – parts per million or milligrams per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample.

**ppb** – parts per billion or micrograms per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**pCi/l** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

**Treatment technique (TT)** – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

2025 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY TABLE - PWS ID NO. 5110089								
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
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Chloride (ppm)	10/24	N	14	N/A	N/A	250		Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	03/25	N	0.34	N/A	10	10		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppm)	10/24	N	0.17	N/A	0.3	0.3		Naturally occurring metal found in the earth's crust. It frequently dissolves into groundwater aquifers or leaches from the corrosion of old iron and steel plumbing.
Sulfate (ppm)	10/24	N	3.1	N/A	250	250		A naturally occurring mineral compound composed of sulfur and oxygen that dissolves into groundwater from soil and rock formations.
Fluoride (ppm)	10/24	N	0.15	N/A	4	4		Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7ppm
<b>Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine and chloramines (ppm)	01/25-12/25	N	1.80	0.60-4.00	4	4.0		Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products<sup>A</sup></b>								
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	09/25, 12/25	N	10.9-140.95	N/A	N/A	60		By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	09/25,12/25	N	3.7 - 138.42	N/A	N/A	80		By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded 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
<b>Lead and Copper (Tap Water)<sup>B</sup></b>								
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	09/24	N	0.23	0	.0010-1.1	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water ) (ppb)	09/24	N	4.3	0	0.5-4.4	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting buildings to water mains; erosion of natural deposits

**Table Notes:**

A. Results in the level detected column for inorganic contaminants, haloacetic acids and total trihalomethanes are the highest detected level at any sampling point. The result in the level detected column for chloramines is the highest running annual average, computed quarterly, of the monthly averages of all samples collected. The number reported in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile result column for lead and copper is the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of all samples for the most recent round of sampling. The range of results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations as well as Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products compliance results.

One sample during 2025 (Smallwood Store) had a Total Trihalomethanes result of 138 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 80 ppb. However, the system did not incur an MCL violation, because all annual average results at all sites were at or below the MCL. 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 systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.\*

One sample during 2025 (Smallwood Store) had a Total Haloacetic Acids result of 140 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 80 ppb. However, the system did not incur an MCL violation, because all annual average results at all sites were at or below the MCL. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

B. 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. Everglades City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact 239-513-0445.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

\*\*\*No lead services lines detected during inventory. Lead service line inventory can be found on the City's website.\*\*\*