

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY 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:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **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.
- **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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **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 EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. 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.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PLAN

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a source water assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated one potential source of contamination with a low susceptibility 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.

For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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 (800-426-4941).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

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. Esto 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Esto Water Works 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWS ID #1300247



We're very pleased to provide you with this year's annual water quality report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water we have delivered to you over the past year.

We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regular town council meetings. They are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm CST at the Esto Town Hall (Hwy 79 Esto, FL).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Esto Town Clerk at 850-263-6521.

This report is available at the Esto Town Hall and will be mailed to customers upon request.

WHERE ESTO'S WATER COMES FROM

Esto's water source is ground water from two wells which draw from the Floridan Aquifer. After the water comes out of the wells, we treat it to protect you against microbial contaminants. Chlorination is the only method of treatment needed for disinfection purposes.

HOW WE ENSURE YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

Esto Water Works 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 1st 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.

How to Read the Table

In the table, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level

This highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close 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.

AL - Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water systems must follow.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

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.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

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.

Measurements & Other Abbreviations

mg/L	Number of milligrams of substance per liter of water
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected

2023 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS - PWS #1300247

Inorganic Contaminants

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
Nitrate (ppm)	Sep-22	N	1.30	ND-1.3	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

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) - Stage 1	Jan-Dec 23	N	0.53	0.26-0.90	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jan-Dec 23	N	2.8	0 of 5	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing Systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jan-Dec 23	N	0.112	0 of 5	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Radioactive Contaminants

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)	Aug-18	N	1.4	ND-1.4	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits