

# 2014 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

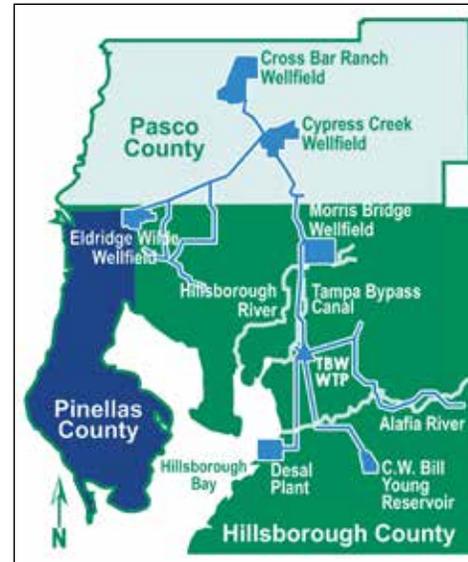
Pinellas County delivers tap water that is a clean, quality product. Pinellas County proudly reports that the water provided to customers meets or exceeds all Federal and State standards for safe drinking water. All the information contained in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Each day, County employees work around-the-clock to ensure that the water provided meets or exceeds these standards and expectations for safety, reliability and quality; our water system had no violations. We hope that you will take a few minutes to review this important information.

Pinellas County and Tampa Bay Water 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, 2014**. Data obtained before January 1, 2014, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. As authorized and approved by the USEPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. The USEPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the accompanying tables are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

If you would like to request a copy of the Tampa Bay Water 2014 CCR, please contact them at (727) 796-2355.

Pinellas County customers receive potable (drinking) water from sources managed by the regional water supplier, Tampa

Bay Water. This regional water supply is a blend composed of groundwater, treated surface water and desalinated seawater. Eleven regional well fields pumping water from the Floridan Aquifer are the primary sources for the regional groundwater supply. The Alafia River, Hillsborough River, C. W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, and the Tampa Bypass Canal are the primary sources for the regional treated surface water supply. Hillsborough Bay is the primary source of seawater for the regional desalinated supply. From blends of these water sources as well as the Eldridge-Wilde Well field, potable water is transferred to pumping stations where it undergoes additional minor processes before being pumped to homes and businesses through 1,762 miles of pipe in the Pinellas County distribution system.



The blended water provided by TBW is treated by PC with a polyphosphate inhibitor to control corrosion, and then fluoridated for dental health purposes as of March 2013. The groundwater acquired from the Eldridge-Wilde Well field undergoes water treatment processes that are comprised of six steps. First, the water goes through a hydrogen sulfide removal process. Hydrogen sulfide is a natural element that has a displeasing odor. A polyphosphate inhibitor is added to control corrosion in the distribution system and home plumbing, then fluoride is added for dental health

purposes. Next, the groundwater is treated to a standard of 99.99% bacteriological inactivation by adding the chlorine disinfectant. Then the chloramine disinfectant is formed for residual maintenance. Lastly, the pH (acid-alkali) is adjusted and stabilized using sodium hydroxide.



## Terms To Know

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

### **Chloramine, (NH<sub>2</sub>Cl):**

A compound made by chemically combining chlorine with ammonia. Monochloramine, one of three possible combinations, is the desired chloramine form for disinfection of potable water.

### **Chlorine, (Cl):**

An element used in gaseous form that readily combines with other elements in water to disinfect potable water.

### **Haloacetic Acids, (HAAs):**

A group of disinfection by-products formed as a result of the chemical disinfection of water.

### **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.

### **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, (NTU):**

A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

### **Not Applicable, (NA):**

Not applicable to this contaminant.

### **Not Detected, (ND):**

Not detected; indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

### **Parts per billion, (ppb), or Micrograms per liter, (ug/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):**

A measure of the radioactivity in water.

### **Treatment Technique, (TT):**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### **Total Trihalomethanes, (TTHMs):**

A group of disinfection by-products formed as a result of the chemical disinfection of water.

### **Turbidity:**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

## Required 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. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored for because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. 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**.



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 (**800-426-4791**).

## Lead in Drinking Water

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. Pinellas County 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>.

## Source Water Assessment

In 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment for Tampa Bay Water. 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) or they can be obtained from Tampa Bay Water, 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, FL 33763, phone (727) 796-2355.



Between 2004 and 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection performed Source Water Assessments for Tampa Bay Water facilities. The assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the Tampa Bay Water surface water intakes. The surface water system is considered to be at high risk because of the many potential sources of

contamination present in the assessment area. 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) or they can be obtained from Tampa Bay Water, 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, FL 33763, phone (727) 796-2355.

## Your Participation Is Welcome!

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners meets twice a month, usually, but not always, on the first and third Tuesdays. The earlier meeting in the month begins at 9:30 a.m. Meetings in the latter part of the month are actually held in two parts. Agenda items are discussed with the Board at 2:00 p.m., after which there is a break and the Board reconvenes at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend these meetings held in the 5th floor Assembly Room of the Pinellas County Courthouse located at 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756. Meetings are televised live (and closed captioned) on PCC-TV, the Pinellas County Connection Television cable channel, and repeated during the week. The meeting agendas are published on the County's website at [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org). For more information, call (727) 464-3485.

Tampa Bay Water's Board of Directors meetings occur on the third Monday of every other (even) month at 9:30 a.m. at 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, Florida 33763. To view their agenda, visit their website at [www.tampabaywater.org](http://www.tampabaywater.org) or call (727) 796-2355.

## Contact Pinellas County

Pinellas County works hard to ensure our customers' satisfaction. If you have questions or comments about this report or other issues, please call us:

Customer Service.....(727) 464-4000

Laboratory .....(727) 582-2302

Emergencies .....(727) 464-4000

You may also visit us on our website at [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities).

## For Your Reference (as of December 2014)

Analyte and Unit of Measure	Average Result	Range of Results
Iron (ppm)	0.047	0.032 - 0.068
Chloride (ppm)	24.8	24 - 26
Sulfate (ppm)	37.2	35 - 40
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	271.8	264 - 284
Calcium (ppm)	66.3	63.7 - 70.7
Magnesium (ppm)	4.67	4.49 - 4.90
pH (SU)	7.98	7.86 - 8.11
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm) conc.	186	150 - 210
Total Hardness (ppm)	185	177 - 197
Water softener setting for hardness: Equivalent to 9 -12.6 grains per gallon		

# Pinellas County 2014 Consumer Confidence Report on Water Quality

Results in the Level Detected column for radioactive contaminants, inorganic contaminants, and volatile organic 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.

## Pinellas County

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage/ Number		Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	0	*	1/14 - 12/14	No	1.6%		Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform and E. coli in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	*	1/14 - 12/14	No	1**		Human and animal fecal waste

Total Coliform Bacteria: Highest Monthly Percentage/Number is the highest monthly percentage of positive samples for systems collecting at least 40 samples per month. \*For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of monthly samples. \*\*A fecal or E. Coli positive followed by the proper repeat sampling absent of any contamination does not generate a violation as long as the total coliform rule has not been violated. For a system taking over 40 samples per month, this result is then totaled with any total coliform positive compliance results for the month to determine percentage compliance with the total coliform rule.

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	3/11	No	0.806	ND - 0.806	Erosion of natural deposits

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3/14	No	0.3	0.1 - 0.3	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	3/14	No	0.0172	0.0148 - 0.0172	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	3/14	No	4.6	4.0 - 4.6	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	3/14	No	33	ND - 33	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4.0	3/14	No	0.64	0.62 - 0.64	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm.
Nickel (ppb)	NA	100	3/14	No	3.7	2.6 - 3.7	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	3/14	No	0.14	0.04 - 0.14	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	3/14	No	1	ND - 1	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	NA	160	3/14	No	21.1	10.2 - 21.1	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	3/14, 6/14, 8/14, 10/14	No	1.8	ND - 1.8	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way

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## Pinellas County

### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

For chlorine, the level detected is the the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4.0	1/14-12/14	No	3.8	1.6 - 5.5	Water additive used to control microbes

### Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations, including Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) results as well as Stage 1 compliance results.

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1/14, 5/14, 8/14, 11/14	No	41.9	7.5 - 56.58	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	NA	80	1/14, 5/14, 8/14, 11/14	No	60.4	22.4 - 71.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	1.3	1.3	6/14 - 7/14	No	0.41	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	0	15	6/14 - 7/14	No	0.8	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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## Tampa Bay Water

Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	1/14-6/14, 12/14	No	1.00	100	Soil runoff

NOTE: The result in the lowest monthly percentage column is the lowest monthly percentage of samples reported in the Monthly Operating Report meeting the required turbidity limits.

Radioactive Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	4/14	No	3.1	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	4/14	No	1.4	NA	Erosion of natural deposits

\* EPA considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. Beta results reported in pCi/L. Level detected is the highest detected level at sampling point.

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	4/14	No	0.026	NA	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	0	15	1/14, 4/14, 7/14, 10/14	No	2	ND - 2	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	8/14	No	0.37	NA	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Bromate (ppb)	0	10	1/14-12/14	No	2.07	ND - 2.47	By-product of drinking water disinfection

For bromate, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of all the individual samples collected during the past year. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations.

Contaminants							
Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL (at the entrance to the distribution system)	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	Acute Violations Y/N	Non-Acute Violations Y/N	Level Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	800	800	1/14-6/14, 12/14	No	No	696	Water additive used to control microbes

For chlorine dioxide, the level detected is the highest single daily sample collected at the entrance to the distribution system.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Average*	Highest Average**	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorite (ppm)	0.8	1.0	1/14-12/14	No	0.101	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\*For Highest Monthly Average: three sample set collected in the distribution system. \*\*For Highest Average: three sample set collected in the distribution system following a daily MCL exceedance at the entrance to the distribution system.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation Y/N	Lowest Running Annual Average, Computed Quarterly, of Monthly Removal Ratios	Range of Monthly Removal Ratios	Likely Source of Contamination
Total organic carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	1/14-6/14, 12/14	No	4.0	3.86 - 6.67	Naturally present in the environment