

Hidden Acres Estates

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWS ID: 5280129

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual 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. Our water is obtained from two wells that draw from the Surficial Aquifer and is chlorinated for disinfection purposes.

In 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. This assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are two potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Hidden Acres Estates office at (863) 763-8266. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the Board of Directors meetings held on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Porch.

Hidden Acres 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.

To help you better understand the table below, we have provided the following definitions:

- **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.
- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **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 (µg/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.

TEST RESULTS TABLE

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
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	10/2021	N	1.9	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	10/2021	N	0.030	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	10/2021	N	0.19	N/A	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 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	10/2021	N	47	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides							
Dalapon (ppb)	03/2022 04/2022 09/2022	N	3.7	ND – 3.7	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way

Stage 1 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)	01/23 – 12/23	N	1.0	0.4 – 1.7	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
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
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	01/23 – 12/23	Y	104.55 (highest LRAA)	20.80 – 160.18	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	01/23 – 12/23	Y	160.46 (highest LRAA)	22.04 – 234.79	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
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 (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/2021	N	0.190	1	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppm)	08/2021	N	10	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Hidden Acres Estates public drinking water system failed to collect the annual sample for the Synthetic Organic Contaminant (SOCs) Dalapon during the fourth calendar quarter of 2023. However, the annual sample was collected on January 11, 2024. These are monitoring and reporting violations of Rule 62-550.516, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Although we did collect samples for all 29 of the regulated SOC's on October 20, 2021, we did not collect the annual Dalapon sample for calendar year 2023 in the correct month. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water (with respect to this specific contaminant) during that time. Some people who drink water containing dalapon well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience minor kidney changes.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires disinfection of drinking water to inactivate possible pathogens, because the health benefits of disinfection far outweigh its risks. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, some disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). A number of DBPs such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) may be a health concern at certain levels of exposure.

The laboratory analyses results for the Stage 2 Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) samples collected from the Hidden Acres Estates public drinking water system on February 27 2023, May 9, 2023 and August 9, 2023, indicated Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for both contaminants. A plan of corrective action has been submitted and approved by DEP and is already being implemented. Hidden Acres Estates will continue to monitor and report the TTHM and HAA5 results to you on a quarterly basis as long as the running annual average exceeds the MCL, as required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic Acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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. Hidden Acres Estates 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>.

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.

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 (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.

Hidden Acres Estates would like 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, please feel free to call us at (863) 763-8266.