

# CITY OF HOMESTEAD - 2009 WATER QUALITY DATA

PARAMETER	FINISHED WATER RESULTS	MCL	MCLG	MAJOR SOURCES
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>				
Total Coliform Bacteria	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Substances</b>				
Copper (ppm) (at tap) <sup>1,2</sup>	0.47, 1 home out of 60 (1.6%) exceeded AL	AL = 1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride (ppm)	0.85	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to promote strong teeth
Lead (ppb) (at tap) <sup>1,2</sup>	5.2, 1 home out of 60 (1.6%) exceeded AL	AL = 15	AL = 0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrite (mg/L)	U	1.0	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits: Runoff from fertilizer use
Nitrate (as N) (ppm) <sup>3</sup>	1.9 (1.7 to 2.4)	10	10	
Chloride (ppm) <sup>3</sup>	49 (42 to 53)	250	NE	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfectants</b>				
Chlorine (ppm) <sup>3</sup>	1.8(1.5 to 2.0)	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>				
Radium226&228(pCi/L) <sup>3</sup>	0.6(0.1 to 0.8)	5.0	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L) <sup>3</sup>	2.6(1.7 to 3.6)	30	0	
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>				
Total Trihalomethanes( ppb) <sup>3</sup>	28.4(9.3 to 42.9)	80	NE	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids 5-(ppb) <sup>3</sup>	11.8 (1.5 to 38.2)	60	NE	
<p>The City of Homestead has an emergency interconnect with Miami-Dade Water &amp; Sewer which could, in emergency situations, supply our system with an alternative water supply. The Miami-Dade Water System is in compliance with all federal and state agencies, as is the City of Homestead. If you need a copy of the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's 2008 CCR, please contact Miami-Dade Water and Sewer at (305) 665-7477 or visit their website at <a href="http://www.miamidade.gov/wasd/report_water_quality.asp">www.miamidade.gov/wasd/report_water_quality.asp</a>.</p>				
<p>1 The measurement and Maximum Allowable Levels are the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value of the most recent round of sampling sites. If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value does not exceed the AL (less than 10% of homes have levels above the AL), the system is in compliance.</p> <p>2 Lead and Copper testing was performed in 2009. Due to no presence of lead or copper, the City was granted a waiver for testing until the year 2012.</p> <p>3 The lowest and highest values measured during the year are in parenthesis. The number outside the parenthesis is the average value.</p>				

## Where Does Your Water Come From?

Like most cities in South Florida, the source of the water delivered to your tap is the Biscayne Aquifer, a groundwater source. This aquifer is an underground geological formation where water is stored and extends from a few feet to approximately 200 feet below the ground. The water is pumped from the aquifer at two well fields located at the City's two water treatment plants (Wittkop Park and Harris Field). Once the water is pumped out of the wells, chlorine is added to disinfect and fluoride is added to aid in dental protection. After the water is treated it is stored in elevated water towers prior to entering the water distribution system.

## Definition of Terms in the Table

- AL (Action Level) – Is the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement, which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The MCL is 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 (MCLG) – The "Goal" is 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.
- NE (Not Established) – No goals have been set for this constituent.
- NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) – Used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.
- pCi/L (Picocuries per Liter) – A measure of radioactivity.
- ppb (Parts per Billion)(ug/L) – One gallon in one billion gallons.
- ppm (Parts per Million)(mg/L) – One gallon in one million gallons.
- ppt (Parts per Trillion) – One gallon in one trillion gallons.
- ton (Threshold odor number) – Used to measure odor of drinking water.
- U (undetectable) - below detectable level

## Your Water is Tested for Your Protection

The City tests the quality of the water prior to and after water treatment. The water is also tested at various locations within the water distribution system.

Testing is a necessary activity to ensure that the treatment process is properly controlled and that the public receives water that complies with all regulatory standards. All laboratory results are reported to the Health Department of Miami-Dade

County. Testing involves measuring the concentration of constituents in the water. Numerous constituent concentrations are measured either annually, quarterly, monthly, or on a daily basis.

## The 2009 Water Quality Measurements Table Presents Test Results for Detected Substances

This table reports the concentrations of those substances that were detected in your drinking water. The dozens of other constituents that were tested for but not detected are not included in the table. The table also includes the maximum concentration level that the EPA and the State of Florida allow.

## Source Water May Contain Substances That Are Not Completely Removed After Treatment

As with all sources of drinking water, water from the Biscayne Aquifer contains substances (also called contaminants) that may not be completely removed during water treatment. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial substances, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic substances, 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 substances, 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 substances, 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for

constituents in bottled water, which must provide the same level of protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 (800-426-4791).

#### Some People May Be More Vulnerable to Contaminants than Others

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

#### 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. The City of Homestead 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 visit their Website at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

#### Information about Disinfection By-Products

Water leaving the Wittkop Park and the Harris Field Water Treatment Plants and water in the distribution system are tested for disinfection-byproducts. The results of the tests are reported in the Water Quality Measurement Table.

#### Have Questions? Call the Source

For more information about Homestead water quality, please call Mr. Steven Anderson, Superintendent Water/Wastewater Treatment Division at (305) 224-4775. Visit our website at [www.cityofhomestead.com](http://www.cityofhomestead.com).

#### Why is Homestead Providing this Report?

As of September 1998, all water utilities in the United States are required by the EPA to provide these water quality reports to their customers on an annual basis.

#### You Can Participate in Decisions that Affect Water Issues

Decisions regarding your water are made at the Water Division monthly meetings. For information regarding meeting schedules and times, please call the City of Homestead Public Works and Services Department at (305) 224-4770.

#### Need Extra Copies?

Building owners and businesses are encouraged to share this report with non-billed water users. If you need extra copies of this report, please call the City of Homestead Public Works and Services Department at (305) 224-4770.

**We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.**



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# CITY OF HOMESTEAD Water Quality Report



The City of Homestead takes great pride in providing first class services to its residents, and providing safe drinking water is no exception. To ensure the high quality water its residents expect, the City operates its own water treatment, storage and distribution systems. In compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of Homestead is proud to provide you with the annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2009.

This Water Quality Report contains information about the drinking water supplied to your tap during calendar year 2009. Included is a table that provides results from Homestead's drinking water.

**We are pleased to report that the City of Homestead's drinking water exceeds all Federal and State water quality standards. The City was presented an award from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for runner-up of 2009's best tasting drinking water in Florida's Region VII.**

**Este informe contiene informacion importante sobre el agua que usted bebe diariamente. Si no lo entiende, busque a alguien que se lo traduzca o le explique su contenido. Para mas informacion, llame al (305) 224-4777.**