ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS)

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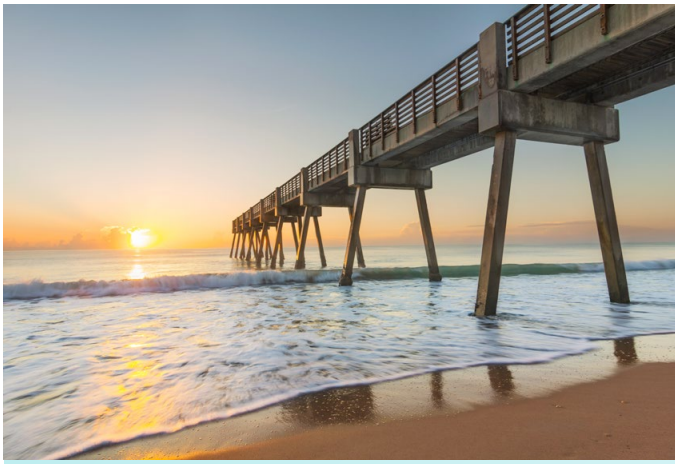


Statement of Function

The Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) is happy to present this annual water quality report. At IRCDUS, our mission is to provide a future of high-quality drinking water through exceptional personnel and operational practices targeted at safeguarding public health and protecting our environment.

The county provides water, wastewater, and reuse services to a major portion of its population, including the City of Sebastian. The remaining residents are serviced by private wells and septic tanks, the City of Vero Beach Utilities, or the City of Fellsmere Utilities. The General and Engineering Division provides employee support for the operations of the Water Production, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, Reuse, Biosolids, and Customer Service Divisions. This division also reviews water and sewer infrastructure associated with private development projects and designs and manages water and sewer capital projects, including assessment projects.

IRCDUS 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 results of monitoring from January 1 to December 31, 2025. Data obtained after January 1 and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. The study identified 11 potential sources of contamination for this system, with a low probability of causing contamination. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained by contacting IRCDUS at (772) 226-3416.

Important Health Information

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Water Plant Superintendent for Indian River County Department of Utility Services at (772) 226-3416. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Water Conservation Tips

Protecting Our Water Resources in Indian River County

Water conservation helps protect our environment, preserve the Indian River Lagoon, and ensure a reliable water supply for future generations. Small changes at home can make a big difference.

Indoor Water-Saving Tips

In the Bathroom

- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Fix leaking faucets and running toilets promptly.
- Install WaterSense® labeled showerheads and toilets.

In the Kitchen

- Run dishwashers only when full.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running tap water until cold.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl instead of under running water.

Laundry Room Tips

- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Use the correct water level setting for smaller loads.
- Upgrade to water-efficient appliances when possible.

Outdoor Water Conservation

Water Your Lawn Wisely

- Water only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Avoid watering during rain or windy conditions.
- Apply only the amount of water your lawn needs.

Landscape Smarter

- Choose Florida-friendly and drought-tolerant plants.
- Group plants with similar water needs together.
- Add mulch to help soil retain moisture.
- Reduce large turf areas when possible.

Irrigation Tips

- Check sprinkler heads regularly for leaks or overspray.
- Install rain sensors or smart irrigation controllers.
- Use drip or micro-irrigation systems for gardens and planting beds.

Around the House

- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them down.
- Use a hose nozzle that shuts off automatically.
- Wash vehicles with a bucket and shut-off nozzle.

Easy Ways to Save More Water

- Collect rainwater in rain barrels for plants and gardens.
- Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation.
- Reuse water from rinsing vegetables to water plants.
- Watch for hidden leaks inside and outside your home.

Know Your Watering Days

Current St. Johns River Water Management District irrigation restrictions include:

- No watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses: Wednesdays & Saturdays
- Even-numbered addresses: Thursdays & Sundays
- Nonresidential irrigation: Tuesdays & Fridays

New landscaping may have temporary exceptions.

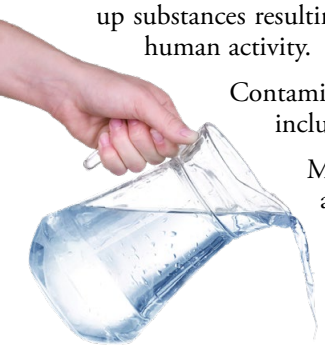
Every Drop Counts
Conserving water helps:

- Protect the Indian River Lagoon
- Preserve Florida's aquifer and wetlands
- Reduce utility costs
- Support sustainable growth in Indian River County

"Doing What is Necessary Today to Provide a Better Utility for Tomorrow."

Substances That Could Be in 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; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) 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, or 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 it tested, contact Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) at (772) 770-5300. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) has information about lead service lines on its website at https://indianriver.gov/services/utilities/lead_service_line_replacement.php, including an interactive map where you can search your address to see service line material.

About Our Reporting Violation

On December 1, 2025, a review identified potential noncompliance with Florida Administrative Code Rule 62-550 because the facility failed to submit analytical results for triennial lead and copper tap sampling. The report, originally due by October 10, 2025, was submitted late and not received by the department until October 29.

To prevent a reocurrence, staff have revised the lead and copper tap sampling workflow to ensure sampling begins immediately at the start of each monitoring period and instituted a streamlined follow-up protocol that quickly bypasses nonresponsive customers in favor of alternates. Beginning with the next monitoring cycle, staff will proactively complete all lead and copper tap sampling no later than 45 days prior to the end of the monitoring and reporting period, providing a buffer for contract laboratory analyses, results validation, and final reporting before the close of the compliance period.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We have been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. EPA determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether these contaminants need to be regulated. For example, we participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. At present, no health standards (e.g., maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Contaminants

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Arsenic (ppb)	No	2023	3.5	ND–3.5	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	No	2023	0.0055	0.0031–0.0055	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	No	2025	1.75	1.32–2.03	[4]	[4]	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	No	2023	0.64	NA	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; Water additive that promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	No	2023	54.2	44.2–54.2	NA	160	Saltwater intrusion; Leaching from soil

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	No	2025	8.13	3.7–11.4	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	No	2025	63.95	26.8–84.6[1]	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)[2]

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	RANGE LOW-HIGH	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	No	2025	0.0870	0.00093–0.19	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	No	2025	0.0003	0.00025–0.0016	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AVERAGE RESULT	RANGE OF RESULTS	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Lithium (ppb)	2024	ND	NA	NA
PFAS (ppb)	2024	ND	NA	NA

[1] Two locations had TTHM results in 2025 that exceeded the MCL of 80 ppb: 5920 Old Dixie Highway: May (81.4 ppb) and August (84.6 ppb) 13180 Highway A1A: August (81.3 ppb) 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 system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[2] This table summarizes our most recent lead and copper tap sampling data. If you would like to review the complete lead tap sampling data, please call (772) 770-5300.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

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.

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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).