

2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

EAST PUTNAM REGIONAL – PWSID# 2544444

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

WATER SOURCE AND TREATMENT

Our water source is ground water from 2 wells that draw from the Floridan Aquifer at depths of 400 and 420 feet. Prior to distribution, our water is filtered through reverse osmosis for contaminants removal, aerated for degasification, treated with sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment, and treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

In 2025, the Department of Environmental Protection 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. A search of the data sources indicated 3 potential sources of contamination near our wells with low to high susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at:

<https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Putnam County Public Works at (386) 329-0346 or publicworks@putnam-fl.gov. We encourage our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Commission meetings. They are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at 9:00am, at the Putnam County Government Complex (Street Address: 2509 Crill Ave, Suite 100, Palatka, FL 32177).

PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT

East Putnam Regional routinely monitors 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, 2025. Data obtained before January 1, 2025, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

WATER SOURCES AND CONTAMINANTS

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, 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

EFFECTS OF LEAD

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. East Putnam Regional 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, 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 your water tested, contact Putnam County Public Works at (386)329-0346 or publicworks@putnam-fl.gov. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

LEAD SAMPLE RESULTS AVAILABILITY

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead Action Level (AL) at 15 ppb. For a water system to be considered in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review by contacting our office at publicworks@putnam-fl.gov.

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. We have completed a service line inventory, and it is available for review by contacting our office at publicworks@putnam-fl.gov.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In the Water Quality Test Results tables below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms, we've 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 (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 (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 (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 (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.

Not Detected or 'ND' - Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

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
Barium (ppm)	12/2024	N	0.0125	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	12/2024	N	0.074	N/A	4	4	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 (Note: our system does not use fluoride as a water additive)
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	12/2025	N	0.032	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	12/2024	N	34.2	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS							
For Stage 1 Disinfectants, results in the “Level Detected” column are the highest running annual average (RAA) that occurred in 2025, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. “Range of Results” is the range of all individual samples collected in 2025.							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MRDL Violation? (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	01/2025 – 12/2025	N	0.86	0.6 - 1.2	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
For Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products, results in the “Level Detected” column are the highest level detected at any monitoring location in 2025. “Range of Results” is the range of all individual samples collected from all monitoring locations in 2025.							
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 (HAA5) (ppb)	03/2025, 06/2025	N	5.9	2.5 - 5.9	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	03/2025, 06/2025	N	61.3	26.2 - 61.3	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)	90 th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/2024 - 09/2024	N	0.020	0	0.0065 - 0.036	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	08/2024 - 09/2024	N	1.1	0	ND – 3.0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits