

*City of*  
**Tampa**  
*Florida*

# Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2018

Quality • Value • Reliability • Service

The report contains important information about your water quality. We are pleased to report that Tampa meets or exceeds state and federal requirements. If you have any questions about the information in this report, call the Tampa Water Department at (813) 274-8811 for assistance.

Este es un importante informe sobre la calidad de su agua. Con mucho gusto, le contamos la agua de Tampa cumple o excede los requisitos estatales y federales. Si no tienes a alguien que pueda traducir este informe, llame al Departamento de Agua de la Ciudad de Tampa a (813) 274-8111, para obtener ayuda.

# A Message from the Director

At the David L. Tippin Water Treatment Facility, we go the extra mile to provide you and your family a safe and reliable source of drinking water. In 2018, the hard work and dedication of Tampa's Water Department staff was recognized by the Partnership for Safe Water with the "20-Year Directors Award". The award, reserved for utilities that treat surface waters like the Hillsborough River, acknowledges our ongoing treatment optimizations and water quality monitoring that go above and beyond regulatory requirements. We are the only utility in Florida that has earned the award.

In 2018, our water quality laboratory staff of scientists and technicians passed their biennial assessment and proficiency testing. The four days of review and observation conducted by the Florida Department of Health included a two-day lab training for identifying the waterborne parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. Our staff's overall excellent performance complies with the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC), demonstrates our ongoing regulatory compliance and proves our capabilities in record keeping, housekeeping and high quality laboratory testing results.

Our experienced field technicians and equipment operators work around the clock in dangerous conditions to repair and maintain our distribution system of more than 2,160 miles of pipes and almost 50,000 valves. And they service more than 14,200 fire hydrants annually. We sample the water quality in each region of our distribution system to ensure delivery of sanitary water. Should you need to speak with us, our highly trained call center representatives are there for you. They work diligently to address water, wastewater and solid waste concerns, taking as many as 25,000 customer calls each month. To preserve the Hillsborough River ecosystem for future generations, our efficiency team shares water-saving strategies and distributes thousands of water-saving devices each year at events throughout our city.

Looking ahead, our engineers and designers are on the forefront of the scientific and technological advances in water production that will allow Tampa to thrive as a world destination with a growing population. This Drinking Water Quality Report is our annual report card for your review. If you have any questions or concerns about the information included in this report, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed in this report.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Weber, P.E.  
City of Tampa Water Department Director

## Vision

We will be renowned for high quality water and the outstanding manner in which customers are served through the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan.

## Mission

To provide our customer superior drinking water, reclaimed water and utility support services.

## Values

The vision, mission and goals of the Tampa Water Department are guided by four core values: Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence.

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## Information by Phone

Emergency Hotline .....	813-274-8811, #4
Account and Billing Questions .....	813-284-8811, #3
Water Quality Lab .....	813-231-5253
Water Efficiency and Conservation .....	813-274-8121, #5
Engineering Section .....	813-274-8121, #6
Hillsborough County Health Dept. ....	813-307-8059
U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline .....	800-426-4791

## Information Online

Tampa Water Department .....	<a href="http://tampagov.net/water">tampagov.net/water</a>
City of Tampa Utilities .....	<a href="http://tampagov.net/cotu">tampagov.net/cotu</a>
Water Conservation .....	<a href="http://tampagov.net/savewater">tampagov.net/savewater</a>
Reclaimed Water .....	<a href="http://tampagov.net/reclaimedwater">tampagov.net/reclaimedwater</a>
Water Quality .....	<a href="http://tampagov.net/waterquality">tampagov.net/waterquality</a>
Hillsborough County Health .....	<a href="http://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov">hillsborough.floridahealth.gov</a> Department
U. S. EPA .....	<a href="http://epa.gov/sdwa">epa.gov/sdwa</a>
American Water Works Association .....	<a href="http://awwa.org">awwa.org</a>

## How Can I Get More Involved?

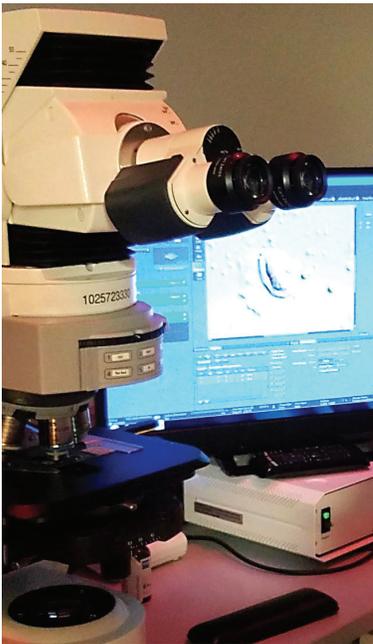
Tampa Water Department business and issues are discussed at Tampa City Council meetings. The City Council meets on Thursdays at 9 a.m. in City Hall, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd. Agendas for upcoming meetings may be requested from the City Clerk's office, (813) 274-8397, or viewed online at [tampagov.net](http://tampagov.net). Meetings are streamed. They also are televised live on the local government access cable channel. CTTV is Channel 15 on Frontier Communications and Channel 640 on Charter Spectrum. Transcripts are available on the City's Web site.

# Tampa's Tap Water Meets Water Quality Standards

This report is a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. It provides details about the laboratory testing we do to ensure that Tampa enjoys high quality drinking water. In 2018, the City of Tampa's tap water continued to meet or exceed all state and federal water quality standards.

The water department employs about 270 full-time employees, with about a third of them working at our water treatment plant. Included in their numbers are scientists, engineers, lab technicians, and licensed drinking water operators – all working around-the-clock to produce high-quality drinking water for our City.

We care about producing the best drinking water possible because we care about the men, women and children who live, work and play in Tampa.



*In 2018, Tampa's water quality laboratory staff passed their biennial assessment and proficiency testing, conducted during a four-day period by the Florida Department of Health and in compliance with the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference. The assessment included a two-day lab practical for identifying the waterborne parasites Cryptosporidium and Giardia.*

## Tampa Water Department Fast Facts

1. The David L. Tippin Water Treatment Facility has the capacity to produce up to 120 million gallons of drinking water daily.
2. Tampa's average daily drinking water demand is 81 million gallons a day.
3. When "excess" water is available, up to 1.2 billion gallons is stored in our Aquifer Storage and Recovery System for later use.
4. At the end of the treatment process, organic by-products removed from our raw water are dewatered and returned for processing to maximize our available water sources.
5. Our Residuals Processing Facility recycles dry organic by-products for other beneficial uses.
6. We deliver high-quality drinking water across an approximate 211-square-mile area that includes some portions of unincorporated Hillsborough County.

## How To Read the Tables

The tables on the following pages summarize laboratory results for monitoring of your drinking water between Jan. 1, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018 in accordance with federal and state laws, rules and regulations. To assist you, terms and abbreviations found in the tables are shown below.

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

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**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.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (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 Goals):** The level of 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.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**ND:** Not detected. Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit):** Measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Range of Results:** The range, lowest to highest, of compounds detected in finished water processed by the Tampa Water Department.

**Sources:** The major sources of the compounds detected in the finished water.

**Trihalomethanes:** Compounds formed during chloramination (disinfection) of drinking water. 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.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Units - ppm (parts per million):** The equivalent of 1 penny in \$10,000; ppb (parts per billion) - The equivalent of 1 penny in \$1 million; MFL (million fibers per liter) - A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Y/N:** Y indicates "yes"; N indicates "no."

The Tampa Water Department 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 to December 31, 2018. Data obtained before January 1, 2018, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Microbiological Contaminants						
Contaminant	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Total Number of Positive Samples for the Year	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
E. coli**	February 2018	N	3	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or systems fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E.coli	Human and animal fecal waste

**\*\*E. coli:** The total number of EC+ positive samples taken to comply with the RTRC must be reported, even if they are not MCL violations. A PWS will receive an E. coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an E. coli positive (EC+) sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result. E. coli MCL violations occur with the following sample result combinations: Routine EC+ and Repeat TC+. During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. The Level 1 assessment was completed on August 20, 2018. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed both of these actions.

Turbidity							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	The Highest Single Measurement	The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	Daily Jan-Dec 2018*	N	0.10	100%	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

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. \*The turbidity highest single measurement was 0.10 NTU for the following dates: 1/7/18, 1/8/18, 2/15/18, 2/16/18, 2/17/18, 2/17/18, 2/28/18, 4/16/18, 4/17/18, 4/19/18, 4/24/18, 6/7/18, 6/8/18, 6/9/18, 6/10/18, 6/11/18, 6/12/18, 7/10/18, 7/11/18, 7/12/18, 7/13/18, 7/14/18, 7/15/18, 7/16/18, 7/17/18, 7/30/18, 8/6/18, 8/31/18, 12/9/18, 12/30/18. 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 disinfectant.

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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	March 2017 May 2017	N	3.0	ND - 3.0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	March 2017 May 2017	N	1.2	1.0 - 1.2	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Results in the level detected column for radioactive 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.

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
Antimony (ppb)	May 2018	N	0.21	0.21	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	May 2018	N	0.54	0.54	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	May 2018	N	0.012	0.012	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	May 2018	N	0.27	0.27	5	5	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Fluoride (ppm)	May 2018	N	0.55	0.55	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
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	May 2018	N	0.26	0.26	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
*Sodium (ppm)	May 2018	N	87	87	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Thallium (ppb)	May 2018	N	0.093	0.093	0.5	2	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Results in the level detected column are the highest detected level at any sampling point. \*The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has set the drinking water standard for sodium at 160 parts per million (ppm) to protect individuals who are susceptible to sodium sensitive hypertension or diseases that cause difficulty in regulation body fluid volume. Sodium is monitored so that individuals who have been placed on sodium (salt) restricted diets may take into account the sodium in their drinking water. Drinking water contributes only a small fraction (less than 10 percent) to the overall sodium intake. If you have been placed on a sodium restricted diet, please inform your physician that our water contains 87 ppm of sodium.

### 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
Bromate (ppb)	Monthly 2018	N	4.37	0.74 – 6.26	MCLG = 0	MCL = 10	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chloramines (ppm)	Daily 2018	N	3.7	0.6 – 6.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.

*For bromate and chloramines 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 results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.*

### Stage 2 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)	February 2018 May 2018 August 2018 November 2018	N	26.45	4.34 – 32.95	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	February 2018 May 2018 August 2018 November 2018	N	23.31	2.27 – 33.90	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

*The results in the level detected for haloacetic acids and total trihalomethanes are based on a locational running annual average. The range of results is lowest to highest at individual sampling sites.*

### Organic Compounds

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation Y/N	Lowest Running Annual Average, Computed Quarterly, of Monthly Removal Ratios	Range of Monthly Removal Ratios	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total organic carbon (ppm)	Weekly 2018	N	2.65	1.74 - 2.92	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment.

*The monthly TOC removal ratio is the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the required TOC removal.*

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	Number of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	July-September 2017	N	0.38	None	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	July-September 2017	N	2.4	None	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

The City of Tampa Water Department is participating in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) fourth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) during 2018 through 2020. The City's UCMR4 analysis results and more information are available at [tampagov.net/WaterQuality](http://tampagov.net/WaterQuality). In summary, the Tampa Water Department sampled eight times during May-August 2018 and tested for the presence of Cyanotoxins. The cyanotoxins were not detected. In 2019, a second series of sampling will be conducted for additional unregulated contaminants, as instructed by the EPA.

#### Average pH and Hardness for 2018

The average pH of our finished water during 2018 was 7.8 units. The average total hardness of our finished water was 210 mg/L or 12.3 grains/gallon. Please visit [www.tampagov.net/metrics/water](http://www.tampagov.net/metrics/water) to review our current 12-month performance record in maintaining proper pH, hardness, odor and other water department functions.

In 2018, Tampa's water quality laboratory collected approximately 9,000 water samples and conducted about 40,000 analyses.

The Tampa Water Department tests for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in both the raw and finished water. Samples of our finished water were collected at least monthly showing **no detectable organisms in our finished water**. Raw water was collected at least quarterly and the results indicated that 25 percent of the raw water contained these organisms.

We believe it is important for you to know that *Cryptosporidium* may cause serious illness in 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. These people should seek advice from their health care providers.

## What's In My Water Before It's Treated?

The sources of drinking water (whether tap water or bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Tampa's source water is the Hillsborough River. As water travels over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials as well as substances associated with agriculture, industry and roadways.

Throughout the year, as river levels fluctuate and the river receives varying amounts of stormwater runoff, the quality of our source water naturally changes. We continually monitor source water quality and adjust our treatment processes to achieve consistency in the drinking water we produce. Our Performance Measurement Dashboard shows our 12-month history of Total Water Hardness, Threshold Odor and pH Level, as well as other performance metrics. Go to [www.tampagov.net/metrics/water](http://www.tampagov.net/metrics/water).

Runoff created by rainfall and excess irrigation carries trash, dirt, leaves, metals, pesticides, fertilizers and other pollutants through storm drains into surface waters including the Hillsborough River. You can make a difference by preventing debris from entering storm drains. Sustain and protect the Hillsborough River by paying close attention to when and how much fertilizer and other chemicals you apply to your yard.

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## Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Please follow Tampa's fertilizer blackout June through September.
- 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, may be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that may be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 1-800-426-4791.

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.

## Find out more about pollution prevention at [tampagov.net/stormwater](http://tampagov.net/stormwater)

In 2018, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) updated its Source Water Assessment on source waters throughout Florida. The assessment provides important information about potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of ground water and surface water sources used to produce drinking water. For surface water sources like Tampa's, the assessment considers:

1. Upstream areas within a 72-hour in-stream time of travel to each intake, including the 100-year floodplain plus a 200 foot buffer to the floodplain;
2. The entire surface area of the lake or reservoir plus a 200 foot boundary. The surface water source areas assessed by FDEP for Tampa's drinking water are:
  1. Blue Sink
  2. Hillsborough River
  3. Morris Bridge Sink
  4. Sulphur Springs
  5. Tampa Bypass Canal

Learn more online from the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program: [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

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## What Can We Do to Preserve Our Source Water?

Preserving and protecting Florida's water resources is the focus of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program, which promotes nine key principles to help you achieve the common goals of water conservation and water quality protection:

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Waste Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

Learn more at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>, or call your Hillsborough Extension office at (813) 744-5519. Our Community Water Wise Awards recognize those who have committed to conserving our water resources and protecting the environment by using attractive Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Applications for the 2019 Community Water Wise Award competition are due by June 30 of each year. The simple online application is at [www.tampabaywaterwise.org](http://www.tampabaywaterwise.org). Is your yard water wise?

# How We Treat Your Drinking Water

Tampa's Water Department provides high-quality drinking water by using proven technology, modern facilities and state-certified operators. Our water is treated using a combination of time-tested conventional water treatment processes and innovative disinfection strategies for maximum quality and taste.

Before your drinking water goes into our distribution system, it is treated using these steps:

**Coagulation:** This is the chemical process of rapidly mixing coagulants to the water entering the water treatment plant. The coagulants react with the organic matter to form substances called floc. The floc acts as a nucleus to attract the suspended particles in the water.

**Flocculation:** During this step, polymers are added to the water, which is circulated to allow the floc particles to form larger, heavier floc solids. The floc now looks like snowflakes suspended in the water.

**Sedimentation:** The floc particles are heavier than water. Mixing is stopped and the water slowly flows through the vertical sedimentation basins. Along the way, the floc settles to the bottom and is removed. The clear water is collected from the top of the sedimentation basins and sent to the next step. A tandem high-speed clarifying system, called ActiFlo, uses chemical and sand to settle the water more rapidly. This tandem system provides operational options to ensure quality water production to meet fluctuating demands.

**Disinfection, Primary:** Clear drinking water is collected at the end of the settling basins and is treated further to remove or inactivate viruses, bacteria and other pathogenic organisms. Disinfection is accomplished using ozone as the primary disinfectant. This advanced disinfection process produces a higher quality water with better taste.

**Filtration:** Water is passed through deep filtration beds to produce water that is crystal clear. Extremely small particles are removed during this process. Tampa's water treatment plant produces water with turbidities, or cloudiness significantly better than required by drinking water standards.

**Corrosion Control:** The corrosivity of the water is controlled by adjusting the pH.

**Disinfection, Secondary:** Chloramines are created by adding chlorine and ammonia to the water. Chloramines help prevent microbial contamination while the water passes through the distribution system to you. Fluoride is added to provide dental health benefits.

## Lead in Drinking Water

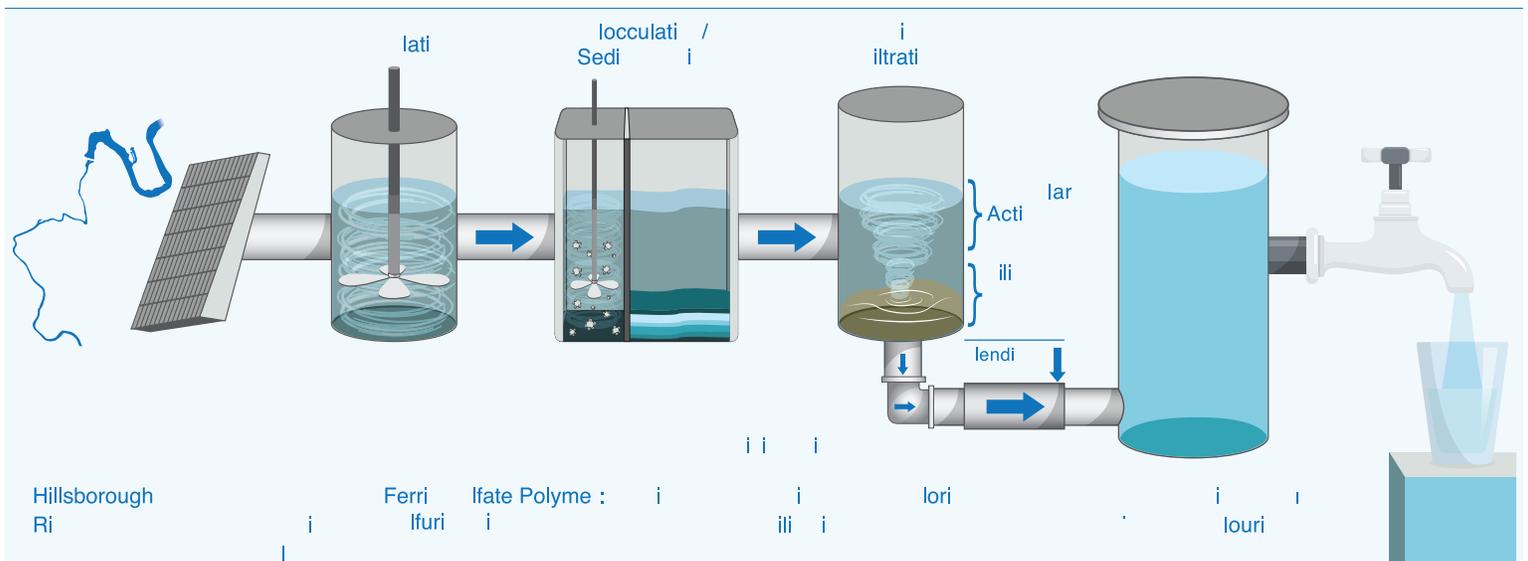
Sampling results and other activities associated with Tampa's implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act are monitored by the Hillsborough County Health Department. All data included in the annual report data tables are reviewed by the health department prior to publishing.

When lead is found in tap water, typically it is due to leaching from plumbing materials. If the drinking water in the pipes is too corrosive, it can cause lead to leach out of the plumbing materials into the water. Tampa does not have lead service lines in its water distribution system and we have a strong, proactive corrosion control program in place around the clock.

You can continue the lead protection provided by the Tampa Water Department by taking these extra steps if your home or business plumbing system contains lead piping or lead-soldered pipes:

1. Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.
2. Flush the tap for one to two minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking.
3. If a faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, flush your cold-water pipes by running the water for one to two minutes prior to use.
4. Inspect the aerator on the end of the faucet and remove any debris, such as metal particles.
5. Do not use lead solder when making plumbing repairs.
6. Have your water tested after any plumbing work.

NSF International provides information to help consumers identify independently tested and certified drinking water filters and faucets.



# Tampa Relies Primarily on the Hillsborough River for Drinking Water

The majority of drinking water produced for Tampa comes directly from the Hillsborough River. When the river cannot meet customer demand, we can access up to 1.2 billion gallons of our finished water that is stored underground in deep wells to augment our daily production. During extended periods of drought, Tampa may purchase drinking water from Tampa Bay Water. The purchased water is derived from a combination of treated groundwater, treated surface water and/or desalinated seawater. During 2018, less than one percent of Tampa's drinking water was purchased from Tampa Bay Water.

At present, the average drinking water demand for our community is 81 million gallons a day. That demand is expected to increase to 88 million gallons a day by 2035. Our Tampa Augmentation Project is studying the best way to meet that increasing demand and provide our community with a safe, affordable and sustainable water supply for Tampa's families, businesses and visitors.

Florida's groundwater and surface water must be replenished by rainfall. Most of our region's 50 inches of rainfall occurs during just five months of the year. The City's primary water supply from the Hillsborough River Reservoir reduces during the dry season and during times of drought. The use of reclaimed water to help meet Tampa's drinking water needs became possible in 1979 when the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant was upgraded. Yet today, our highly treated reclaimed water is mostly discharged into Hillsborough Bay. The City is motivated to reuse its highly treated reclaimed water, in preparation for periodic droughts and to support Tampa's growth as a world destination.

About twice each year, the Tampa Water Department temporarily modifies its disinfection method from chloramine to chlorine disinfection. Throughout the process, a yellow banner appears on our web page, [tampagov.net/water](http://tampagov.net/water). Health officials advise that kidney dialysis patients should not be impacted by the chlorine treatment but anyone with special health concerns is encouraged to contact their health care provider with questions about their health care.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to less the risk of infection for *Cryptosporidium* or other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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## For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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.



*The Hillsborough River is Tampa's source for drinking water.*

## What You Should Know About Certain Contaminants

### Lead

Tampa's service lines do not contain lead; our federally-approved testing program shows no actionable level of lead in the drinking water produced for Tampa. We have a strong, proactive corrosion control program in place around the clock so that the pH of our water does not cause leaching of lead into drinking water from materials and components associated with plumbing in the homes or businesses in our service area. 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 it 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*

*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are microscopic organisms that may enter surface waters from runoff containing animal wastes. If ingested, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* may cause diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The Tampa Water Department tests for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in both the raw and finished water. Samples of our finished water were collected at least monthly and raw water collected at least quarterly during 20018, and 25 percent of the raw water analyzed were found to contain these organisms. Although small amounts were found in the source water, **we did not find any in the treated water that goes to your tap.**

Environmental Protection Agency and 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 at (800) 426-4791.



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