

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report City of Paxton

We're 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 source is ground water from 2 wells. The wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required is chlorine for disinfection purposes.

In 2025, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system, and a search of the data sources indicated one potential source of contamination near our wells with moderate concern level. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Crystal Crawford Utilities/Finance Clerk at (850) 834-2716. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the third (3rd) Tuesday monthly at 6:00 p.m. at Paxton City Hall meeting room.

The City of Paxton 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, 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 1-800-426-4791.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

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.

Action Level (AL): 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.

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.

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

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 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.

2025 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

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
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	1.5	ND – 1.5	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	0.0094	0.0085- 0.0094	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	7.6	ND-7.6	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	0.17	0.12- 0.17	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of
Lead (ppb)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	1.8	1.2-1.8	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Sodium (ppm)	Dec 2024/ Dec 2025	N	2	1.7-2.0	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion. Leaching from soil
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides							
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

Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	March 2025 – Dec 2025	N	0.83	ND-0.83	400	400	Discharge from chemical factories.	
Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP)								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or IMRDL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Chlorine—Stage I	Jan-Dec 2025	N	0.71	0.46-0.94	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Aug 2025	N	36.7	N/A	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Aug 2025	N	8.08	N/A	N/A	60	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	Number of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jan-Dec 23	N	0.072	0 OF 10	ND-.076	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jan-Dec 23	N	1.6	0 OF 10	ND-1.6	15	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

The city hired a contractor to replace all the City's water meters and as part of that project all of the services within the City's Franchise were inspected for the presence of lead water services. A total of 873 services were inspected, and no lead services were discovered. The city has a record of the inspection report for each service if customers wish to come to City Hall (21872 US HWY 331 N Laurel Hill, FL 32567) to review.

To assess corrosion of lead and copper, City of Paxton conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites every three years. The most recent set of lead and copper tap sampling is available for review. To view the lead and copper tap sampling data you may contact Paxton Utilities (21872 US HWY 331 N Laurel Hill, FL 32567) at 850-834-2716

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.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter

the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment, and one Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take eight corrective actions and we completed eight of these actions.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally 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.

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. [Paxton Utilities 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 Paxton Utilities at 850-834-2716. 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>

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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people 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).

We at the City of Paxton 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 any of the numbers listed at 850-834-2716.