



# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Water Quality Compliance  
for Palm Key in Calendar  
Year 2024





**OUR MISSION: PROVIDE  
QUALITY WATER AND  
WASTEWATER SERVICES  
TO OUR CURRENT AND  
FUTURE CUSTOMERS IN  
THE LOWCOUNTRY**

## YOUR WATER SOURCE

For Palm Key area residents, your source of drinking water is groundwater drawn through two wells from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

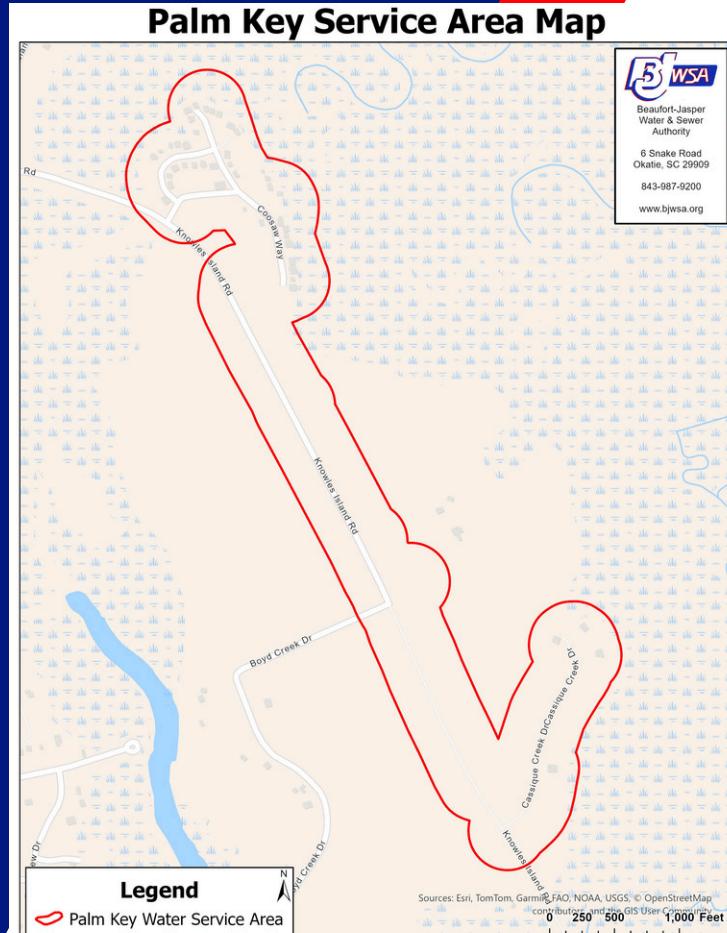
The aquifer is a large, underground bed of rock that holds and provides groundwater to streams and wells. The Floridan Aquifer extends through Florida, south Georgia and parts of Alabama and South Carolina.

We operate and maintain Floridan Aquifer wells in Bluffton, Hardeeville and the Levy area.

BJWSA routinely takes water samples from the wells and throughout the distribution system, performs laboratory tests and reports test results to S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DHEC also performs tests and checks water samples on a routine basis.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Drinking Water Source.....	2
Drinking Water Contaminants/Definitions.....	3
Compliance Monitoring Results.....	4
Contact Information.....	5



Making sure that treatment processes are working correctly requires careful monitoring by a full-time staff of licensed water treatment operators. Each well has dedicated chemical feed equipment, a chlorine analyzer, is visited at least twice a week and remotely monitored on a continuous basis by staff at our other treatment plants. Some of the testing is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and some of it is voluntary, but it's all done to ensure that our Palm Key customers have a drinking water supply that meets or exceeds compliance standards.

The water quality table on page 4 is based upon tests conducted throughout the year 2024 for Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority.

# EPA: DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels, it may dissolve or pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may appear in untreated source water include:

- Microbes, such as viruses and bacteria from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganics, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or from urban stormwater runoff, industrial discharges, mining or farming and landscaping.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organics, which can also come from urban stormwater runoff, industrial processes, gas stations, septic systems and landscaping.
- Radioactive particles, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of human activities.

In order to ensure drinking water safety, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protections for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immunocompromised individuals can be particularly at risk from infections, such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy; persons who have undergone organ transplants; people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly people and infants. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter in water.

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

**Non-Detected (ND):** No measurable level of a substance or contaminant detected.

**Parts per billion (PPB):** Or, micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ )

**Parts per million (PPM):** Or, milligrams per liter (mg/L)

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

# 2024 COMPLIANCE MONITORING RESULTS

## Palm Key

(see page 3 for definitions)

Substance	EPA Ideal MCLG	Typical Source	Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)	Highest Detected Level	Range of Levels Detected
Copper*	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; natural deposits erosion	AL = 1.3 ppm	0.021 ppm (90th percentile) 0 over AL	
Fluoride	4 ppm	Natural deposits erosion; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	4 ppm	0.22 ppm	0.22 - 0.22 ppm
Nitrate	10 ppm	Leaching from septic tanks, sewage	10 ppm	N/D	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	60 ppb	0 ppb	
Lead**	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing; natural deposits erosion	AL = 15 ppb	0.51 ppb (90th percentile) 0 over AL	
Trihalo-methanes (TTHM)	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb	8.3 ppb	7.5 - 8.3 ppb
Chlorine	4.0 (MRDLG)	Water additive used to control microbes	MRDL = 4	1.46 ppm	0.12 - 2.00 ppm

The 90th percentile is based on 5 samples.

\*Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. Our water did not exceed the average MCL for copper, and we did not have a violation.

\*\*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. BJWSA 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 BJWSA at 843-987-9200. 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>.



## **PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS**

The public is invited to attend BJWSA Board of Directors meetings to participate in decisions that may affect their water quality. Meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

### **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Call 843-987-9200 or email [info@bjwsa.org](mailto:info@bjwsa.org) to:

- Ask about your water quality
- Report a water or sewer emergency
- Pay a bill over the phone
- Make billing inquiries

## **BEAUFORT-JASPER WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY**

**6 Snake Road**  
**Okatie, S.C. 29909**  
**843-987-9200**  
**[www.bjwsa.org](http://www.bjwsa.org)**

