

# 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



For DESTIN WATER USERS, INC.

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*This report will be mailed to all of our customers and is also available at the Destin Water Users Administrative Office at 218 Main St., Destin, FL.*

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 our six coastal wells and purchased water from Regional Utilities, South Walton Utility Company, Inc. and City of Freeport. All these wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required is chlorine for disinfection purposes at Regional Utilities and City of Freeport. Destin Water Users and South Walton use chlorine as well as sodium hypochlorite for disinfection purposes.

In 2009 and updated April 24, 2010, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and the systems from whom we purchase water. There are six potential sources of contamination identified for Destin Water Users' system with a low to moderate susceptibility range. There are no potential sources of contamination for Regional Utilities. There are eleven potential sources of contamination for South Walton Utility Company with a low to moderate susceptibility range. There are five potential sources of contamination for City of Freeport with a low to moderate susceptibility range. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program {SWAPP} website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

If you have any other questions about the SWAPP information, this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Destin Water Users, Inc. Laboratory Director, Peggy McDeavitt at 850-837-6146 Ext. 3929 during office hours. We encourage you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at 4p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the main office at 218 Main St.

Destin Water Users (DWU) 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, 2010 to December 31, 2010. Data obtained before January 1, 2010, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

*In the table to the right, 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.

**Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE):** An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

**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.

**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 billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg}/\text{l}$ ):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

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

**Radioactive Contaminants** (See Note 1 - Next Page)

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)	1/08 - 10/10	N	4.9	ND-4.9	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	1/08 - 10/10	N	1.1	ND-1.1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

**Inorganic Contaminants** (See Note 1 - Next Page)

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
Arsenic (ppb)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	1	ND-1	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	0.207	0.008-0.207	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	1.1	ND-1.1	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	2.0	ND-2.0	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	0.20	ND-0.20	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Sodium (ppm)	1-10/08, 3/09	N	150	ND-150	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

**Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides** (See Note 1 - Next Page)

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) phthalate (ppb)	1-11/08, 3/09	N	1.15	ND-1.15	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories

**Microbiological Contaminants** (See Note 2 - Next Page)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage/ Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	1-12/10	N	1	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

**Lead and Copper (Tap Water)** (See Note 2 - Next Page)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	7-8/10	N	0.22	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	7-8/10	N	3.0	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

**Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-Products** (See Note 2 - Next Page)

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/10	N	7.65	6.5-8.3	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	08/10	N	7.35	4.5-12.3	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	1-12/10	N	1.13	1.0-1.1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive to control microbes

**Secondary Contaminants \*\* (See Note 1)**

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Odor (threshold odor number)	1-7/08, 3/09	Y	4	ND-4	N/A	3	Naturally occurring organics

\*\* The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standards for secondary contaminants, and has determined that odor is an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. The City of Freeport sampled June 2008, and odor was found in a higher level than is allowed by the State. Odor is a secondary contaminant and does not pose a health risk.

- 1. Data is a compilation of Destin Water Users, Inc., South Walton Utility Company, Inc., City of Freeport and Regional Utilities.**
- 2. Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.**

If present, elevated levels of 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. Destin Water Users, Inc is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 your water 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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, which 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCLS are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

**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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

We at Destin Water Users, Inc. 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 insuring 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.

