



THE CITY OF FLORENCE  
WATER DEPARTMENT

# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report

**The City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department** is pleased to provide you, our customer, our annual Water Quality Report. The City of Florence Water Department is committed to providing the residents of Florence and Lauderdale County with the safest and highest quality drinking water possible. Daily testing is done at our treatment facilities using sophisticated equipment and the most advanced procedures, and the water produced by the City of Florence Water Department meets or surpasses both state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. This annual "Water Quality Report", which is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what tests by independent laboratories show about it, and other information you should know about your drinking water.

But, most importantly:

***The City of Florence's drinking water met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards during 2022.***

For information about how you can participate in decisions or for general information about your drinking water, call us at (256) 760-6490 or consult our web site at [www.florenceal.org](http://www.florenceal.org). Information can also be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Web site at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.



Overview

The City of Florence’s drinking water is supplied by surface water from the Tennessee River and Cypress Creek. Modern, state of the art surface water treatment facilities using the most up to date technology treats the water from these two sources. In addition, we pump ground water from two wells in the Killen and Center Star areas of Lauderdale County, which is blended with the treated surface water sources. The well sources supply these areas only in Killen.

The City of Florence utilizes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration in their treatment process. Also, chlorine is used for disinfection, fluoride for dental protection, and lime for pH treatment.

New Treatment Process added in 2014

The MIEX system was added as a simple solution for meeting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) disinfection by-product (DBP) removal by employing a continuous ion exchange process. The process removes dissolved organic carbon (DOC) allowing for improved drinking water quality and regulatory compliance.

What do these tables mean?

It’s easy! Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The **Table of Primary Contaminants** provides an overview of some primary contaminants that are known to pose a health risk to humans. In the **Table of Detected Contaminants**, the column marked Amount Detected shows the highest test results during the year. Sources of Contaminant Level show where this substance usually originates. The **Table of Secondary Contaminants** lists regulated contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water. Columns headed MCL and MCLG refer to:

**Action Level:** the concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**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 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.

Tables of Primary Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected
<b>Bacteriological</b>		
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	5%
Turbidity	TT	.40
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli	0	0
Fecal Indicators (enterococci or coliphage)	TT	0

Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected
<b>Radiological</b>		
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	ND
Combined radium (pCi/l)	5	ND
Uranium	30	ND

Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected
<b>Inorganic</b>		
Antimony	.006	ND
Arsenic	.01	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND
Barium	2	0.024
Beryllium	.004	0.00024
Bromate	.010	ND
Cadmium	.005	ND
Chloramines	4	ND
Chlorine	4	*1.6
Chlorine Dioxide	.8	ND
Chlorite	1	ND
Chromium	.1	ND
Copper	1.3	0.050
Cyanide	.2	ND
Fluoride	4	0.86
Lead	.015	0.0033
Mercury	.002	ND
Nitrate	10	1.4
Nitrite	1	ND
Total Nitrate and Nitrite	10	ND
Selenium	.05	ND
Thallium	.002	ND

At high levels some primary contaminants are known to pose a health risks to humans. These tables provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected	Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>			Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	Ethylbenzene	.7	ND
Alachlor	.002	ND	Ethylene dibromide	.00005	ND
Atrazine	.003	0.00010	Glyphosate	.7	ND
Benzene	.005	ND	HAAS	60	17.8
Benzo(a)pyrene[PAHs]	.0002	ND	Heptachlor	.0004	ND
Carbofuran	.04	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	.0002	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride	.005	ND	Hexachlorobenzene	.001	ND
Chlordane	.002	ND	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	.05	ND
Chlorobenzene	.1	ND	Lindane	.0002	ND
2,4-D	.070	ND	Methoxychlor	.04	ND
Dalapon	.2	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate]	.2	ND
Dibromochloropropane	.0002	ND	Pentachlorophenol	.001	ND
o-Dichlorobenzene	.6	ND	Picloram	.5	ND
p-Dichlorobenzene	.075	ND	Polychlorinated biphenyls PCBs	.0005	ND
1,2-Dichloroethane	.005	ND	Simazine	.004	ND
1,1-Dichloroethylene	.007	ND	Styrene	.1	ND
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	.07	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	.005	ND
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	.1	ND	Toluene	1	ND
Dichloromethane	.005	ND	TOC	TT	2.29
1,2-Dichloropropane	.005	ND	TTHM	80	27.8
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	.4	ND	Toxaphene	.003	ND
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	.006	ND	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	.05	ND
Dinoseb	.007	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ND
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD]	.00000003	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	.2	ND
Diquat	.02	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	.005	ND
Endothall	.1	ND	Trichloroethylene	.005	ND
Endrin	.002	ND	Vinyl Chloride	.002	ND
			Xylenes	10	ND

\* Florence Water Department had a Chlorine Residual measure as low as 0.46 mg/l on July 6, 2022. A chlorine residual of 1.0 mg/l or greater is required at all times. Public Notification was issued on July 13, 2022.

Key to Tables

- AL = Action Level
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

- ND = Not Detected
- pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radio-activity)
- ppm = parts per million, milligrams pr liter (mg/l)
- ppb = parts per billion, micrograms per liter (ug/l)

TT = Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Table of Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Unit	Amount Detected	Contaminant	MCL	Unit	Amount Detected
Alkalinity, Total	NA	ppm	107	Nickel	.10	ppm	ND
Aluminum	0.20	ppm	0.032	Odor	3.0	threshold odor number	ND
Calcium	NA	ppm	25.5	pH	NA	ppm	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	NA	ppm	37.2	Silver	0.10	ppm	ND
Chloride	250	ppm	27.4	Sodium, as Na	NA	ppm	24.6
Color	15.0	units	ND	Sulfate	500	ppm	7.5
Surfactants (MBAs)	0.50	ppm	ND	Specific Conductance		umhos/cm	234
Hardness	NA	ppm	81.2	Total Dissolved Solids	500	ppm	130
Iron	0.30	ppm	ND	Zinc	5.0	ppm	ND
Magnesium	NA	ppm	4.8	Langelier Index	NA		-1.35
Manganese	0.05	ppm	0.0057				

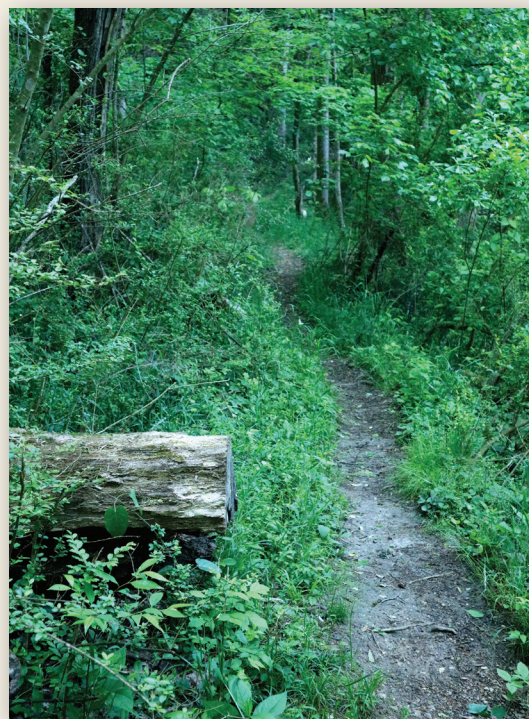
## Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Range	Violation	Amount Detected	Likely Sources of Contaminant(s)
<b>Bacteriological — 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022</b> *A Level I and Level II Assessment was completed.						
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	<5%		No	5%* Present or Absent	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	0	TT	0.01 - 0.40	No	0.40 NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Inorganic Chemicals — 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022</b>						
Chlorine	4	4	.2 - 1.6		1.6 ppm	Disinfection
Fluoride	4	4	0.0 - 0.86	No	.86 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10	10	0.0 - 0.54	No	.54 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Chemicals — 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022</b>						
HAA5	NA	60	7.5 - 38.0	No	17.8 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	NA	TT	0.5 - 1.3	No	1.3 ppb	Naturally present in the environment
TTHM	NA	80	9.4 - 56.0	No	25.1 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) - 2020 Data

Contaminant	Units	Amount Detected	Contaminant	Units	Amount Detected
alpha-BHC	ppb	ND	Manganese	ppb	4.00
Chlorpyrifos	ppb	ND	Bromide	ppb	28.5
Dimethipin	ppb	ND	Total Organic Carbon	ppb	2140
Ethoprop	ppb	ND	Bromochloroacetic Acid	ppb	4.7
Merphos-Oxone	ppb	ND	Bromodichloroacetic Acid	ppb	2.2
Oxyfluorfen	ppb	ND	Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	ppb	0.86
Permethrin	ppb	ND	Dibromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.7
Profenofos	ppb	ND	Dichloroacetic Acid	ppb	16.3
Tebuconazole	ppb	ND	HAA9 Group	ppb	34.4
Butylated Hydroxyanisole	ppb	ND	Total Brominated HAAs	ppb	10.1
Quinoline	ppb	ND	Haloacetic Acids (Total)	ppb	32.00
O-Toluidine	ppb	ND	Monobromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.1
n-Butanol	ppb	ND	Monochloroacetic Acid	ppb	ND
2-Methoxyethanol	ppb	ND	Tribromoacetic Acid	ppb	1.7
2-Propen-1-ol	ppb	ND	Trichloroacetic Acid	ppb	16.6
Germanium	ppb	ND			

This year's report features images of the Wildwood Park Hiking Trail. This hiking trail is accessible from the eastern side of Wildwood Park and offers spectacular views of Cypress Creek. This trail is steep, narrow and skirts cliffs overhanging the creek. Photography is by L. Wray Dillard.



**CRYPTOSPORIDIUM & GIARDIA** Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microscopic organisms found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium and Giardia, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of

may cause an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised individuals, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium and Giardia must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Cryptosporidium and Giardia in at Florence’s treatment plants are removed and/or treated by effective filtration and disinfection processes.

We monitored the untreated source waters for both Cryptosporidium and Giardia in 2017. The results are below:

Date Analyzed	Analysis Results Cypress Creek		Analysis Results Wilson Lake	
	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	<i>Giardia</i>	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	<i>Giardia</i>
01/2017	0.20 organisms/L	0.27 organisms/L	0.27 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
02/2017	0.00 organisms/L	1.60 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
03/2017	0.48 organisms/L	1.80 organisms/L	0.70 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
04/2017	0.10 organisms/L	0.29 organisms/L	0.98 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
05/2017	0.00 organisms/L	0.39 organisms/L	0.27 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
06/2017	0.00 organisms/L	0.67 organisms/L	0.27 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
07/2017	0.00 organisms/L	1.00 organisms/L	0.10 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
08/2017	0.00 organisms/L	0.19 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L
09/2017	0.00 organisms/L	0.19 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L	0.00 organisms/L

**LEAD AND COPPER RULE MONITORING** Lead and copper Rule (LCR) was developed to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water. The LCR established an action level of 0.015 mg/l for lead and 1.3 mg/l for copper based on the 90th percentile level of tap water samples collected. Lead and copper are sampled on a mandated three year testing cycle with sampling conducted at customer’s tap. Our 90th percentile for lead was 0.0033 mg/L. Our 90th percentile for copper was 0.050 mg/L.

**LEAD** 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. The City of Florence Water Department 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 <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS** Radon is not a concern in water that comes from lakes, rivers, and reservoirs (called surface water), because the radon is released into the air before it arrives at your tap. The City of Florence is not required to test for radon, and there is currently no federally-enforced drinking water standard for it. However, there are other unregulated contaminants that were tested for in 2022 which can be found in this annual report.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemical compounds found throughout our environment. PFAS are found in water, air, and soil. PFAS are used in many consumer and industrial products because they have the unique ability to repel oil, water, and grease. The City of Florence tested for PFAS in 2022 at Cypress Creek, Wilson Lake Water Treatment Plants, and Houston Hills Well. Cypress Creek WTP had a 0.020 ppb result for PFAS. Wilson Lake WTP had a 0.050 ppb result for PFAS. Houston Hills Well had a 0.0022 ppb result for PFAS.

**ASBESTOS and DIOXIN** Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus monitoring for these contaminants is not required.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS** The City of Florence Water Department has performed source water assessments for the Wilson Lake Treatment Plant located on the Wilson Lake (Tennessee River) and the Cypress Creek Treatment Plant located on Cypress Creek. In addition, assessments have been completed for Peck Lane and Houston Hill’s wells located in the Killen and Center Star areas.

## Table of Non-Detected Substances

Florence Water Department tested for the following substances in 2021 but none were detected.	
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	1,3-Dichloropropane
Bromobenzene	2,2-Dichloropropene
Bromochloromethane	1,1-Dichloropropene
Bromoform	1,3-Dichloropropene
Bromomethane	Hexachlorobutadiene
n-Butylbenzene	Isopropylbenzene
sec-Butylbenzene	4-Isopropyltoluene
tert-Butylbenzene	Methylene Chloride
Chloroethane	Methyl tert-butyl ether
Chloromethane	Naphthalene
2-Chlorotoluene	n-Propylbenzene
4-Chlorotoluene	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane
Dibromomethane	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane
1,2 – Dichlorobenzene	Tetrachloroethene
1,3 – Dichlorobenzene	Trichlorofluoromethane
1,4 – Dichlorobenzene	Trichloroethene
Dichlorodifluoromethane	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene
1,1-Dichloroethane	1,2,3-Trichloropropene
1,1-Dichloroethene	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	

This information may be viewed in the Water Department office between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Appointments for reviewing are recommended.

## Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 Environmental Protection Agency’s 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 over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and 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) Microbiological 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 natural occurring or result from urban storm 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 agricultural, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, 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, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

*Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).*





## City of Florence, Alabama

P.O. Box 1023, Florence, AL 35631

*Florence Water/Wastewater Department*

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## National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

This 2023 Annual Water Quality Report was prepared by Michael Doyle, Gina Hall and Tad Cole of the City of Florence Water/ Wastewater Department using technical assistance and guidance from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

We will be pleased to answer any questions about the City of Florence Water Department and our water quality. Call our offices at (256) 760-6490 on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department operates under the authority of the Mayor and Council of the City of Florence, Alabama. The City Council meets at 5:00 p.m. on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 110 W. College Street.

Learn more about the City of Florence Water Department water system at...

[https://florenceal.org/utilities/florence\\_gas\\_water\\_department/](https://florenceal.org/utilities/florence_gas_water_department/).

