What Should I Know About Certain Contaminants?

**INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS**

- **Lead**: Lead is an inorganic contaminant that can enter drinking water from the infrastructure that carries water, and sometimes from lead-based solder used in plumbing. Ingestion of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in young children. To check for lead, call the Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**

- **Radon**: Radon is a radioactive gas that can enter homes through cracks in the foundation, especially in areas with high natural radon levels. It is a colorless, odorless gas that can be harmful if inhaled. To check for radon, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**NITRATES**

- **Nitrate**: Nitrate in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome in infants, which is a condition where the infant takes on a bluish tint. To check for nitrate, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**CRIPTOSPORIDIUM**

- **Cryptosporidium**: Cryptosporidium is a type of parasite that can cause gastrointestinal illnesses. To check for Cryptosporidium, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER SOURCES**

- **Ponds**: Although ponds may be a source of water, they are typically not used as a primary source of drinking water.

**MUTATING AGENT**

- **Mutagen**: Mutagens are substances that can cause mutations in DNA. To check for mutagens, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**ALTERTED AMINES**

- **Altered Amines**: Altered amines are substances that can cause allergies. To check for altered amines, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**ANDROMYXIS**

- **Andromyxis**: Andromyxis is a type of parasite that can cause gastrointestinal illnesses. To check for Andromyxis, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

- **WASD's Facilities**: WASD's facilities meet all standards for safety, reliability and water quality. For more information, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER SUPPLY**

- **Groundwater**: Groundwater is a more stable and reliable water source than surface water sources. To check for groundwater, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER TREATMENT PROCESS**

- **Disinfection and Filtration**: Disinfection and filtration are the primary steps in the water treatment process. To check for disinfection and filtration, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

- **Distribution System**: The distribution system is responsible for delivering water to consumers. To check for the distribution system, contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER QUALITY DATA**

- **Water Quality Data**: Water quality data is available online or by contacting the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources at 305-887-2007.

**WATER USAGE**

- **Water Usage**: Water usage is monitored and managed by WASD. To check for water usage, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER RATE**

- **Water Rate**: Water rates are set by the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources. To check for water rates, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INFECTION**

- **Water Infection**: Water infection is a term used to describe the presence of certain contaminants in water. To check for water infection, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INFLUENCE**

- **Water Influence**: Water influence refers to the influence of water on the environment. To check for water influence, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INFORMATION**

- **Water Information**: Water information is available online or by contacting WASD. To check for water information, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INVESTMENT**

- **Water Investment**: Water investment is the financial investment in water infrastructure. To check for water investment, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

- **Water Infrastructure**: Water infrastructure includes the facilities and systems used to provide water. To check for water infrastructure, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INVENTORY**

- **Water Inventory**: Water inventory is a list of water resources available. To check for water inventory, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INNOVATION**

- **Water Innovation**: Water innovation refers to the development of new technologies and processes for water management. To check for water innovation, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INNOVATION CENTER**

- **Water Innovation Center**: The Water Innovation Center is a hub for innovation in water management. To check for the Water Innovation Center, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INNOVATION PROGRAM**

- **Water Innovation Program**: The Water Innovation Program supports the development and implementation of innovative water solutions. To check for the Water Innovation Program, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INNOVATION PROJECTS**

- **Water Innovation Projects**: Water Innovation Projects are initiatives that support the development and implementation of innovative water solutions. To check for Water Innovation Projects, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.

**WATER INNOVATION SYSTEMS**

- **Water Innovation Systems**: Water Innovation Systems are systems that support the development and implementation of innovative water solutions. To check for Water Innovation Systems, contact WASD at 305-887-2007.
2003 Water Quality Data

### Radiological Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>2002 (h)</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>Action Level (AL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Emitters</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Emitters</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppb)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radon (pCi/L)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>51</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Microbiological Contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>MCL (a)</th>
<th>GOAL (b)</th>
<th>MCL TESTED</th>
<th>ORR, JR.</th>
<th>HIALEAH</th>
<th>PRESTON</th>
<th>LABOR CAMP</th>
<th>CITY NARANJA</th>
<th>NEWTON</th>
<th>NORWOOD</th>
<th>MAJOR SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliforms</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enterococci</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Water Supply Disturbances

- Did you know dripping faucets, leaky toilets and other leaking fixtures that waste water can account for as much as 14 percent of the water use?

### Footnotes

- **AL**: Action Level
- **ND**: Not Detected
- **MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level
- **GOAL**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- **MCLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- **SDWSS**: State Department of Health Water Supply Section
- **NE**: Not Established
- **WTP**: Water Treatment Plant
- **N**: Not Detected
- **NE**: Not Established
- **Y**: Yes
- **R**: Require treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **M**: Mandatory
- **S**: Sanitary
- **ELEVATED**: Elevated Tank; Everglades Labor Camp; Naranja plants: Elevated Tank; Everglades Labor Camp; Naranja; Newton
- **D**: Dade Water Supply distribution system) in order to demonstrate compliance with regulations.
- **(b)** The MCL for total coliform bacteria states that drinking water must not exceed the AL (i.e., less than 10% of the homes have levels above the AL), and the system is in compliance and is utilizing the prescribed corrosion control measures.
- **(c)** The 90th percentile value reported. If the 90th percentile value does not exceed the AL, which precedes the parentheses, then the system is in compliance.
- **(d)** A total of 48 samples for Total Trihalomethane testing are collected per year in accordance with the State's monitoring framework. However, fluoride levels are monitored daily for the Main System treatment plants where fluoride is added to promote strong teeth. If the fluoride level exceeds the limit above the AL, then the system is in compliance and is utilizing the prescribed treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **(e)** Fluoride testing to demonstrate compliance with State regulations is required every 3 years in accordance with the State's monitoring framework. However, fluoride levels are monitored daily for the Main System treatment plants where fluoride is added to promote strong teeth. If the fluoride level exceeds the limit above the AL, then the system is in compliance and is utilizing the prescribed treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **(f)** The 02/03 data presented for the Main System and South Dade System treatment plants where fluoride is added to promote strong teeth.
- **(g)** Water Supply distribution systems in water to demonstrate compliance with State regulations. Compliance is based on a running annual average. This is the value which precedes the parentheses.
- **(h)** Pesticide value reported. If the 90th percentile value does not exceed the AL, which precedes the parentheses, then the system is in compliance and is utilizing the prescribed treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **(i)** Some people may be more vulnerable to health effects from drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer or undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate

### Abbreviations

- **AL**: Action Level
- **GOAL**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- **MCL**: Maximum Contaminant Level
- **MCLG**: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- **pCi/L**: Parts per trillion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **ppm**: Parts per million or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **ppb**: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **Range (in - high)**: give values in parenthesis where applicable
- **ND**: Not Detected
- **AL**: Action Level
- **NE**: Not Established
- **WTP**: Water Treatment Plant
- **SDWSS**: State Department of Health Water Supply Section
- **Y**: Yes
- **R**: Require treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
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### Definitions

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

- **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.
- **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.

### Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department

Some people may be more vulnerable to health effects from drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer or undergoing chemotherapy, people 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 advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate advice about drinking water from their health care providers.