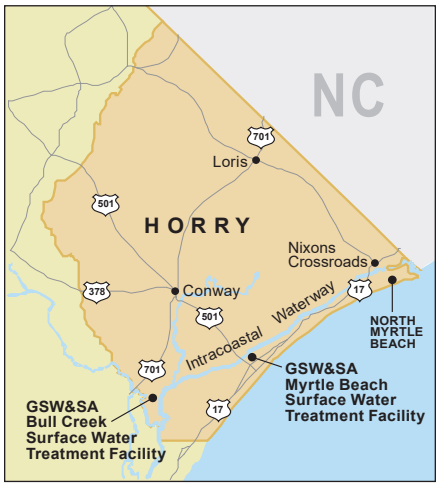
Water Quality Report

City of North Myrtle Beach www.nmb.us July 2025

Where does my water come from?

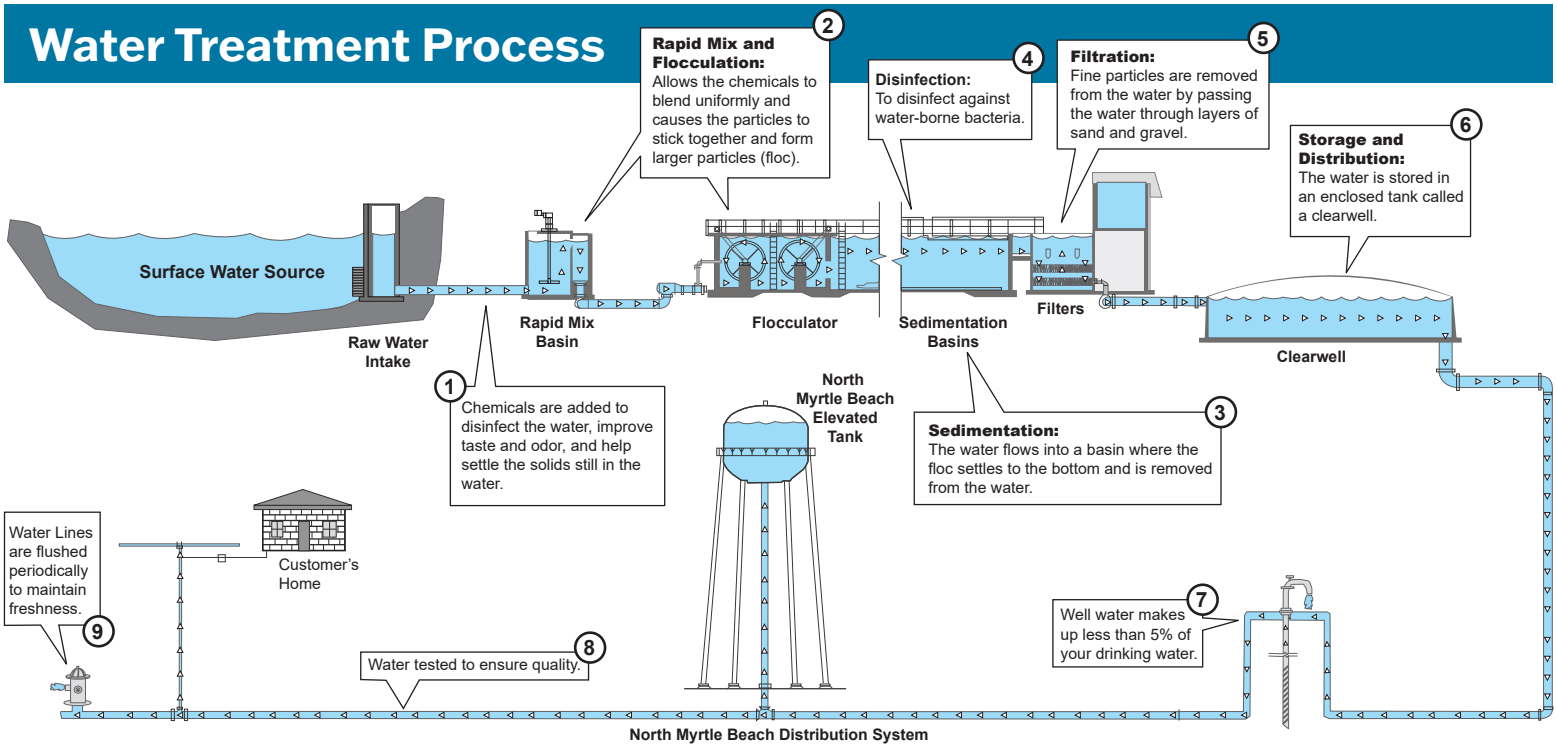
North Myrtle Beach blends water from the Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (GSW&SA)'s Myrtle Beach Surface Water Treatment Facility and Bull Creek Regional Treatment Facility, and groundwater from a well located in North Myrtle Beach. GSW&SA's Myrtle Beach Surface Water Treatment Facility treats water from the Intracoastal Waterway. Several rivers feed into the Intracoastal Waterway such as the Waccamaw River and the Pee Dee River. The Intracoastal Waterway is not sea water. It is a fresh water source. GSW&SA's Bull Creek Regional Treatment Facility treats water from Bull Creek which is a branch of the Pee Dee River. Bull Creek is located north of the confluence of the Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers. The area of the City west of the Intracoastal Waterway at the Barefoot Resort is served by Bull Creek water alone. All other portions are served by blended water from all sources.



About this report

Each day, our employees work to ensure that the water delivered to your home meets all regulatory requirements and your expectations for safety, reliability and quality. For your protection, the staff at the Water Treatment Facilities test your drinking water for many parameters. In addition, North Myrtle Beach collects fifty samples each month from various locations around the water distribution system to further test the quality of our water. The tables in this report show only the parameters detected in your water during calendar year 2024.

Water Treatment Process



Microorganisms / Indicators

Parameter	Treatment Requirement	Levels Detected	Violation?	Potential Sources
Turbidity	95% of samples less than 0.3 ntu and no single sample > 1.0 ntu	**100%** less than 0.3 ntu; highest single sample of **0.49 ntu**[2] and **0.09 ntu**[3]	No	Soil runoff
Total Coliform	≤ 1 sample that is positive	0 positive samples	No	Naturally present in environment

Inorganic Contaminants

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Violation?	Potential Sources
Fluoride	4 ppm*	4 ppm*	**0.44 ppm**[1] / **0.49 ppm**[2] / **3.7 ppm**[3]	No	Erosion; discharge from fertilizer; drinking water additive to prevent tooth decay
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	**0.046 ppm**[1] / **0.1 ppm**[2] / **0.58 ppm**[3]	No	Erosion; runoff from fertilizer

**Based on most recent sample results (2021).*

Disinfectants

Parameter	MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Compliance Value	Range of Monthly Averages	Violation?	Potential Sources
Chlorine/Chloramines	4 ppm (RAA)	4 ppm	**2.0 ppm**[1] (RAA)	**2.0 – 2.0 ppm**[1]	No	Drinking water additive used to control microbes

Disinfection Byproducts

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Compliance Value	Range Detected	Violation?	Potential Sources
Total THMs	80 ppb (RAA)	N/A	**28.0 ppb**[1] (LRAA)	**9.9 – 46.2 ppb**[1]	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAAs	60 ppb (RAA)	N/A	**18.0 ppb**[1] (LRAA)	**0.00 – 33.0 ppb**[1]	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Metals

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	90th Percentile Value	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	Date Sampled	Violation?	Potential Sources	Range
Copper	AL = 1.3 ppm (based on 90th percentile)	1.3 ppm	**0.14 ppm**[1]	**0**[1]	8/9/22	No	Erosion; corrosion of plumbing system	0.0032-0.67 ppm
Lead	AL = 15 ppb (based on 90th percentile)	0 ppb	**0.62 ppb**[1]	**0**[1]	8/9/22	No	Erosion; corrosion of plumbing system	0-5.2 ppb

Radioactive Parameters

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Date Sampled	Violation?	Potential Sources
Beta/photon emitters	50 pCi/L*	0 pCi/L	**3 pCi/L**[3]	2019	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	**0.0771 pCi/L**[2]	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Including Radon & Uranium	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	**0.622 pCi/L**[3]	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Parameters

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Violation?	Potential Sources
Sodium	N/A	N/A	**51 ppm**[1] / **31ppm**[2] / **270 ppm**[3]	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Notice of Violation

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR Report	10/1/21	2024	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

Table Notes:

1 North Myrtle Beach Data

2 Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (Myrtle Beach Surface Water Treatment Plant)

3 Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (Bull Creek Regional Water System)

* *The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/L, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required.*

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2024, the City of North Myrtle Beach participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please call 843-250-5500.

Table of Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminants (UOM)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detections
PFBA (PPB)	2024	0.00253	0-0.0071
PFBS (PPB)	2024	0.00095	0-0.0049
PFHpA (PPB)	2024	0.00109	0-0.0038
PFHxA (PPB)	2024	0.00247	0-0.0052
PFOA (PPB)	2024	0.00394	0-0.0084
PFOS (PPB)	2024	0.00505	0-0.01
PFPeA (PPB)	2024	0.00325	0-0.007

Why am I getting this report now?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires water suppliers to provide annual drinking water quality reports to their customers. This requirement was adopted in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. These reports give consumers valuable information to make personal health-based decisions regarding their drinking water consumption.

Why are there contaminants in the 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **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.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Definitions of terms

Inorganic Compounds: Compounds such as salts, minerals, and metals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs): By-products of the disinfection process.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): Natural and manmade substances used for a variety of industrial purposes. VOCs vaporize and become airborne.

ppm (parts per million): One ppm equals one minute in two years or 1 penny in $10,000.

mg/L (milligrams per liter): In water, mg/L means the same as ppm.

ppb (parts per billion): One ppb equals one minute in 2,000 years or 1 penny in $10,000,000.

ND: Not detected

Nephelometric Turbidity Unity (ntu): Units for measuring turbidity.

Running Annual Average (RAA): A moving average based on the four most recent quarterly averages.

Turbidity: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It can be an indicator of the possible presence of contaminants. As an example, milk is turbid because you cannot see through it. Tea is not turbid because you can see through it.

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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.

MCL Violations: Violations are rare. When there is a violation of a MCL, the elevated level of the contaminant usually occurs for just a day or so. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expectant risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

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

µg/L (micrograms per liter): In water, µg/L means the same as ppb.

ppt (parts per trillion): One ppt equals one penny in $10 billion.

ng/L (nanograms per liter): In water, ng/L means the same as ppt.

Source Water Assessment

SCDES has conducted an assessment of the City of North Myrtle Beach groundwater source as well as the source waters of our wholesale water supplier (Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority). The assessments include a list of all potential contamination sources. If you would like to make arrangements to view the Source Water Assessment Report, please feel free to contact us at 843-280-5500.

About Lead in Drinking Water

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 North Myrtle Beach 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 The City of North Myrtle Beach at 843-280-5500. 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.

The City of North Myrtle Beach (SC2610011) completed the required service line inventory 10/16/2024. The inventory found only non-lead lines in the system. Please contact us if you would like access to the inventory.

Total Organic Carbon (Myrtle Beach Surface Water Treatment Plant and Bull Creek)

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by EPA.

For People with Special Health Concerns

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water Wisdom

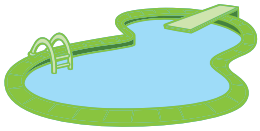
Did you know?

The average person uses **80-100 gallons** of water each day.

Tap into savings

Drinking tap water instead of bottled water can save you up to **$1,400** per year. It's safe, sustainable, and already in your home.

A drop of conservation



Fixing a leaky faucet can save up to **3,000 gallons** of water a year – enough to fill a small swimming pool!

Water & the planet

Choosing tap water reduces plastic waste. Every year, Americans use **50 billion** plastic water bottles. Only a fraction are recycled.

Any Questions?

To know more about the quality of your drinking water, please contact the City of North Myrtle Beach Public Works Department at 843-280-5500. City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Complex. For additional information on City Council meetings, visit the City's website at www.nmb.us. Find more information about drinking water on the EPA's drinking water website at https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.