

## About This Report

This report is designed to inform customers about water quality and to increase customer understanding of drinking water and how it is treated. The technical language, terms, descriptions, definitions, precautionary statements and scientific data contained in this report were prescribed by federal authorities and laws. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) validated the sampling results listed.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, you may call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For more information about this report please contact Michael Hemingway at (843) 665-3236 or Forrest Whittington at (843) 665-2047.

## Town of Timmonsville

On January 9, 2014, Timmonsville deeded its water system to the City of Florence. In 2015, Florence continued an ambitious construction and rehabilitation program and strengthened operational controls to improve water supply and quality for the Timmonsville area. These improvements will be continued during the coming year. As of December 31, 2014, the Timmonsville water system is considered to be fully integrated with the City of Florence system. Therefore this year's Water Quality Report includes laboratory data for both areas, and they will be treated as a combined system.

## Where Your Water Comes From

The City of Florence relies on groundwater as its primary supply source. Groundwater is obtained from deepwells drilled into the Middendorf and Black Creek aquifers. The City provides drinking water for approximately 80,100 people, including 28,919 residences and 3,138 businesses. Approximately 70 percent of Florence's water is provided by the groundwater well system. The City of Florence also operates the Pee Dee River Regional Surface Water Plant. This plant, which utilizes the Pee Dee River as its source provides approximately 30 percent of Florence's water supply.

## Florence City Council

Florence City Council governs the policies, funding and management of the City Utility Department. City Council meets the second Monday each month in Council Chambers at the City Center. The City Center is located at 324 West Evans St. in Florence, S.C. Customers and the public are encouraged to attend these meetings.

## If You Have Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to substances in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly individuals and infants can be particularly at risk due to infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provide guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by crypto-sporidium and other microbiological substances. Further information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## What's In Your Drinking Water

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least minor traces of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

A source water assessment report has been prepared for the City of Florence water system. The report may be reviewed at the City Center by contacting Forrest Whittington at (843) 665-2047.

## The City of Florence Has Never Violated Drinking Water Standards for Lead

### Drinking Water and Lead (from SCDHEC website, [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov))

A high level of lead in drinking water can cause health problems, particularly in children. That's why DHEC works to ensure that public water systems adhere to drinking water quality standards and regulations. Lead is rarely in drinking water when it leaves the treatment plant; however, it can seep into the water from old plumbing along the way.

### How Lead Gets into Drinking Water

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986 banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8 percent. For more information regarding lead related concerns in the City of Florence's water system, please contact Michael Hemingway at (843) 665-3236 or Forrest Whittington at (843) 665-2047.

## 2015 Water Quality Report

The City of Florence is once again proud to report that the drinking water supplied to citizens and customers throughout the 2015 calendar year was of the highest quality and surpassed all health and safety standards.

"Our number one priority is to ensure that our customers are receiving high quality drinking water," said Drew Griffin, the City of Florence's City Manager. "We are pleased to present our 2015 Water Quality Report that provides a summary of monitoring and sampling results. These results demonstrate that our drinking water continues to meet all state and federal standards."

To ensure the City's drinking water constantly meets or exceeds the standards set forth in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of Florence routinely collects sampling data for nearly 100 elements and substances that may be present in public drinking water supplies from both organic and man-made sources. The sampling data collected by the City of Florence is scientifically analyzed and confirmed by SCDHEC.

The most recent sampling data collected and analyzed for the Florence Water System for the period Jan. 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2015, shows that the City's drinking water contains only a few of the elements and substances covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The sampling data is presented in a table included in this report.



[www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com)

## Fluoride

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element that helps prevent tooth decay. Therefore, a small amount of fluoride is added during the water treatment process, as recommended by the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association.

## Table Definitions

**HAA5** Haloacetic Acids

**TTHM** Total Trihalomethanes

**MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs provide a margin of safety.

**MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.

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

**PPB** Parts Per Billion. The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.

**90th Percentile** Of all samples analyzed, 90 percent were at or below the detection level.

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

**DBPR** Disinfectant Byproduct Rule

**PPM** Parts Per Million. The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.

**MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. Highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. Level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Units of measure to indicate water clarity.

**TT** Treatment Technique. Required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**LRAA** Locational Running Annual Average.

**RAA** Running Annual Average

## 2015 Water Quality Sampling Results

The following table shows actual sampling results for substances detected in the Florence water systems for the period Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2015, compared with state and federal health and safety standards for those substances.

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Measurement Unit	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	No	ND - 0.086 (Range)	PPM	2	2	Runoff or leaching of herbicide from agricultural fields
Fluoride	No	ND - 0.68 (Range)	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	No	90th Percentile - 0.0 ND - 0.013 (Range)	PPM	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	90th Percentile - 0.32 ND - 0.48 (Range)	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Sodium	No	2.4 - 7.6 (Range)	PPM	n/a*	n/a*	Erosion of natural salt deposits and sodium bearing minerals; water additive to adjust pH
Nitrate/Nitrite	No	ND - 0.69 (Range)	PPM	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Atrazine	No	ND - 0.27 (Range)	PPB	3	3	Runoff or leaching of herbicide from agricultural fields
HAA5 (Stage 2 DBPR)**	No	Max LRAA - 22.0 ND - 25.8 (Range)	PPB	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (Stage 2 DBPR)**	No	Max LRAA : 61.0 ND - 102.4 (Range)	PPB	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\*DHEC has no established MCLG, MCL, MRDLG, or MRDL

\*\*Compliance is based on LRAA, not on individual samples.

## Pee Dee River Surface Water Plant Data

Contaminant	Violation	Highest Single Sample	Measurement Unit	Lowest Monthly Percentage Meeting Standard
Turbidity	No	0.19 (highest single sample)	NTU	100%

## Additional Surface Water Plant Data

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Measurement Unit	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	RAA: 0.72 0.62 - 0.81 (Range)	PPM	4	4	Treatment Technique
Total Organic Carbon	No	0.90 - 2.50 (Range)	PPM	n/a*	n/a*	Decay of naturally-occurring organic matter
TOC Removal	No	RAA Ratio: 1.53	Dimensionless	RAA Ratio Standard > 1.0		Treatment Technique