Clearly Defined
The Virginia Beach Annual Water Quality Report is our report card to you.

Virginia Beach Public Utilities is committed to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to your tap all day, every day. We are pleased to present you with this annual water quality report which contains information about your water and summarizes test results performed from January 1 through December 31, 2018. In this report, learn where your water comes from, how it is treated and tested, and how Virginia Beach water compares to federal and state standards.

Where Does My Water Come From?
Virginia Beach water comes from surface water treated at Norfolk’s Moores Bridges water treatment plant.

The mission of the Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities is to provide a safe and sufficient water supply that will enhance and sustain our vibrant community. The Lake Gaston Water Supply Pipeline helps fulfill that mission by providing water to Virginia Beach citizens through a 76-mile-long pipeline leading from Lake Gaston in Brunswick County to Lake Prince, a reservoir located in Suffolk but owned and operated by Norfolk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, springs, streams, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring organic and inorganic substances. Water also picks up contaminants from animals and human activity.

Disinfection is an essential part of the water treatment process, preventing the occurrence and spread of many water-borne diseases. Norfolk’s Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant treats our source water, testing it for over 230 substances. Further testing is performed daily throughout Virginia Beach’s water distribution system. An average of 385 water quality samples are collected and analyzed monthly, providing continual monitoring for the highest water quality possible.

From the reservoirs, water is pumped to the treatment plant, where it undergoes an extensive filtering and disinfection process to remove any particles, bacteria, algae, and other impurities. The Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant uses state-of-the-art treatment technology and ensures water quality through continual monitoring and testing.

Why Treat Water?
To ensure the water is clean, safe, and pleasant to drink.
Is the Water Safe for Everyone?
Virginia Beach water meets all Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards.

To ensure that your water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established similar regulations for bottled water.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to drinking water contaminants. Immunocompromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS or other immunocompromising conditions, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people, or those caring for them, should seek advice from their health care providers about their drinking water.

The EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on reducing the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and total coliform bacteria are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the EPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

A message about lead in drinking water:
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 water service lines and plumbing, not from the water system itself. The level of a drinking water contaminant below which there is no known risk to health. MCLs allow for a margin of safety to be set by EPA.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of a disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety to be set by EPA.

The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as necessary for the control of microbial contaminants. The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MRDLs are set by EPA.

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