

City's Tap Water Among Ten 10 Worst

JEA Says Jacksonville's Water Is Safe

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- How safe is the water that flows out of your tap? The answer very much depends on where you live, and an environmental group ranks Jacksonville among the worst in the nation.

The Environmental Working Group rated municipal water quality of the 100 largest cities in the United States and ranked Jacksonville's water the 10th worst. The study ranked Pensacola's at the absolute bottom of the list.

Las Vegas, Houston and San Diego also appeared in the bottom 10.

| Cities With Best Water | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Arlington, Texas |
| 2. | Providence, R.I. |
| 3. | Fort Worth, Texas |
| 4. | Charleston, |

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 5. | S.C. |
| | Boston, Mass. |
| 6. | Honolulu, Hawaii |
| 7. | Austin, Texas |
| 8. | Fairfax County, Va. |
| 9. | St. Louis, Mo. |
| 10. | Minneapolis, Minn. |

The group found the best water quality in nation in Arlington, Texas, with Fort Worth and Austin also rated in the top ten, along with Boston, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Charleston, S.C.

The research and advocacy group looked at water quality tests performed by water utilities and provided to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) since 2004 and created an extensive database on the contaminants found in 48,000 communities in 45 states.

The results of the investigation raise some concerns about municipal water supplies in the U.S., EWG said 316 different contaminants were found in

the nation's tap water. The group also points out that more than half of those contaminants aren't regulated by the EPA.

The JEA, which runs the city's municipal water system, said this is not a list they wanted to be on. They said the chlorine that is used to make the water safe to drink can also make it test bad.

"I just want to assure everyone that the water is safe," said JEA spokeswoman Gerri Boyce. "We do more than 25,000 tests a year... to make sure its safe for our customers."

Video: [JEA Insists Jacksonville's Water Is Safe](#)

While the EWG wants make sure people can access information on the quality of their water, (Link: [Water Quality Reports Where You Live](#)) it does not encourage people to drinking [bottled water](#) instead. Bottled water is much more expensive than tap, it takes a huge toll on the planet, and it's not necessarily any safer than tap, the group said.

"Bottled water is not regulated in the same way as tap water," said Olga Naidenko, a senior scientist at EWG. "With bottled water, consumers often do not know what they are getting, and 25 to 40 percent of bottled water on the market is simply tap poured into a bottle."

EWG believes that knowing what's in drinking water is the key. Knowing which contaminants are present, consumers can find the best filter to get rid of them. EWG put together a thorough [buying guide to find an affordable water filter](#).

Cities With Worst Water

| | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. | Pensacola, Fla. |
| 2. | Riverside, Calif. |
| 3. | Las Vegas, Nev. |
| 4. | Riverside County, Calif. |
| 5. | Reno, Nev. |
| 6. | Houston, Texas |
| 7. | Omaha, Neb. |
| 8. | North Las Vegas, Nev. |
| 9. | San Diego, Calif. |
| 10. | Jacksonville, Fla. |