

Here's what's important to know.
Sanford's drinking water is safe to drink, based on state and federal guidelines.

The safety and security of our customers is our top priority, and the City of Sanford (City) is committed to providing safe drinking water to our customers. Recent media coverage has highlighted an ongoing issue regarding a contaminant in water samples – the same issue we have previously informed the public about. We remain committed to transparency – keeping our public fully informed.

We understand that residents may have concerns. Here are answers to common questions you may have.

What is the current situation regarding the City's water quality?

The City is aware of the presence of contaminants (1,4-dioxane) that were discharged from a decommissioned industrial site (former Siemens site) in Lake Mary. The current level of contamination is low, and we are actively working to protect our water supply.

What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical used as a solvent stabilizer and is found at many sites contaminated with certain chlorinated solvents. 1,4-dioxane dissolves easily in water and has been found in groundwater throughout the United States. Its use has been discontinued. 1,4-dioxane was used and discharged at the former Siemens site in Lake Mary.

What is the City doing to ensure that drinking water remains safe?

The City regularly tests our water and adheres to strict state (FDEP) and federal (EPA) regulations, including the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. We have taken steps to diversify water sources to ensure that trace contaminant levels remain below safe water standards.

Is our water safe to drink?

Yes. The City's water is in full compliance with all federal and state drinking water regulations, and is safe to drink. In 2017, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) concluded that as long as levels of 1,4-dioxane levels in our water remain below 0.35 parts per billion, it is not likely to cause illness and continues to meet the FDOH's health advisory level.

What are regulators doing?

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the power and duty to regulate all discharges of pollutants, including discharges of 1,4-dioxane into the Floridan aquifer (a major source of water supply in the state of Florida) and to impose strict liability on those who make such discharges. We continue to work closely with local, state, and federal partners to address these challenges.