



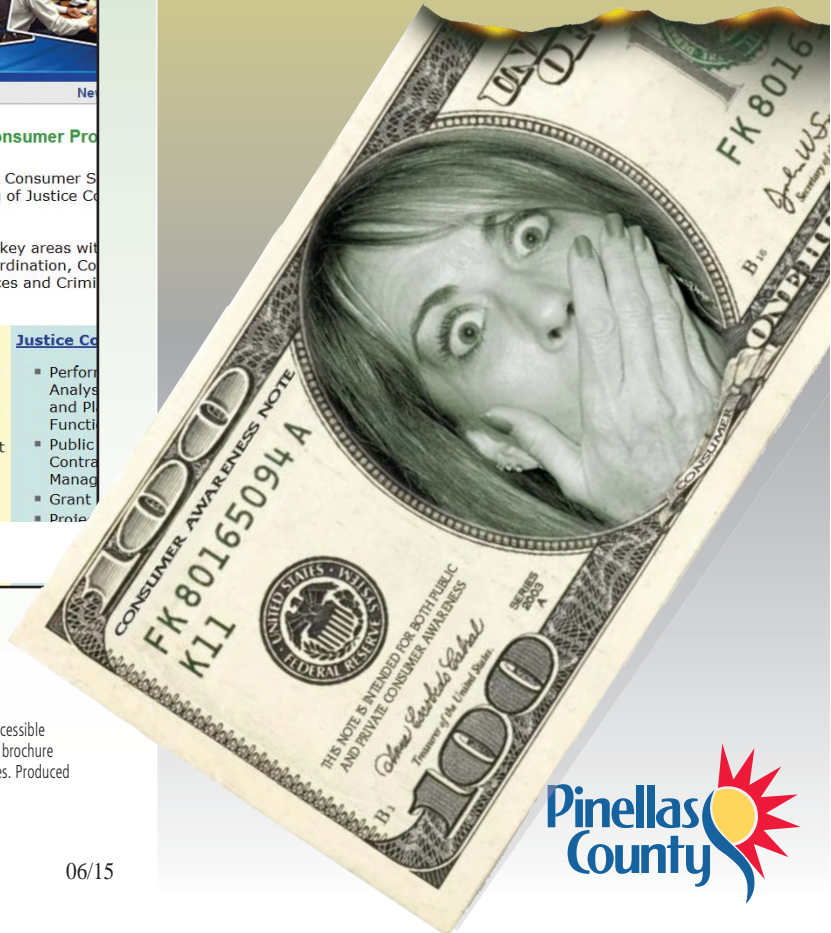
If you are approached about water quality and would like information from us, please call (727) 464-4000.

To investigate a company's past business history or performance, call the Pinellas County Office of Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or check out the company on the Web at www.pinellascounty.org/consumer and click on "Check a Business."



DON'T LET FEAR COST YOU!

Be wary of any company that uses scare tactics and misrepresentation to sell a product.



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An alert from Pinellas County and the Pinellas County Office of Consumer Protection



It's true that the taste of water may vary regionally, but Pinellas County reminds all citizens that the drinking water provided to you by Pinellas County meets or exceeds all Federal and State standards for safe drinking water.

Even so, our water has become a target for unscrupulous business practices. Private water firms have even been known to impersonate Pinellas County employees to gain entrance to homes with the intention to sell the homeowner an expensive water treatment system. Don't let fear motivate a purchase.

These companies are not endorsed by, or affiliated with, any government agency. In addition, employees of Pinellas County will never attempt to sell an "upgrade" to your home's plumbing system. Pinellas County employees concentrate their efforts on maintaining our infrastructure, not inspecting or selling home fixtures.



Be safe and be smart. Don't let an unknown person into your home or agree to buy something without the proper information.

Be Cautious of the Following:

- ✓ **Unexpected visits and "free" gifts from water companies.**
- ✓ **A salesperson who adds a coagulant (a thickening agent) to your water to solidify harmless minerals.**
- ✓ **Expensive prices and scare tactics.**
- ✓ **Claims of the ability to improve the quality and safety of your water.**

Remember: All news of temporary precautions associated with your drinking water will come from a respected news source, or directly from your water provider.