Saving Water Works!

Are you still using an old inefficient toilet in your home? Was your house built before 1993? If you have answered yes to these questions, you may qualify for a toilet installation rebate. Fulton County is partnering with the MetropolitanNorth Georgia Water Planning District to offer rebates to homeowners who replace existing high-water-use toilets with 1.6 or 1.28-gallon-per-flush toilets. By replacing your old toilets and fixtures in your home you could save up to 500 gallons per week! If you are interested in this program please contact toiletrebate@northgeorgiawater.org or call (404) 463-8645 for details.

A Few Helpful Water Wise Tips:

- Conduct a household water audit.
- Check for leaks (both indoor and outdoor) and make necessary repairs.
- Replace all faucets and showerheads with low-flow fixtures.
- Collect air conditioner condensate to water plants.
- Buy or make a rain barrel to collect water for plants and trees.

For more information on water conservation please contact jennifer.mclaurin@fultoncountyga.gov or call 404-612-8745.

F.O.G.

Don't Allow **Fats**, **Oils**, and **Grease** **(FOG)** to clog our pipes. Fulton County Water Service Division is reminding residents to properly dispose of fats, oils, grease and food scraps to avoid clogged pipes. This can lead to sewer backups and overflows, resulting in costly cleanup and possible fines to the County. These costs could have an impact on the local water utility rates. Here are some ways to keep fats, oils, grease and food scraps out of the sewer system:

- ✓ Use a paper towel to soak up small amounts of cooking oil.
- ✓ Pour used oil into a sealed container and place in the trash.
- ✓ For larger amounts of oil, kitty litter can be used to absorb the oil, which can then be placed in the trash.
- ✓ Wipe and scrape excess **FOG** from plates, pots, pans, utensils, and cooking surfaces before washing.
- ✓ Place food items such as vegetables, fruits and scraps in a backyard composting pile.

You're Invited!

Fulton County Public Works wants to keep the public informed about their drinking water. We believe that informed customers are our best allies, and we are dedicated to giving you the information you need to make knowledgeable decisions. You can participate through public hearings associated with environmental permitting and reviewing of new facilities. Notice of upcoming meetings is posted at the Government Center and other government buildings and on our web site at www.fultoncountyga.gov and click "Events."

Citizens who wish to learn more about our water treatment process and operations may contact the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resource Commission (AFCWRC) at 770-664-7455 or kcrews@afcwrc.com. If you have input about your water supply or questions about our services, please contact the Fulton County Department of Public Works at 404-612-7400.

Need more information?

Water quality and safety are increasingly complex and the information in this brief summary may not answer all of your questions. For additional information, questions or concerns please contact Corlette Banks at 404-612-8097 during normal business hours. An online version of this report is also available at www.fultoncountyga.gov.

Fulton County Public Works Department
141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 6001
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-612-7400

Important information about your drinking water

Este informe contiene la información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Annual Water Quality Report

2008

FULTON COUNTY

WSID GA 1210005

Water testing performed from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

What's in our water?

Included in this report are tables depicting contaminants that have been detected in our water. They are, in all cases, BELOW the levels prescribed by the EPA but, nevertheless, are present. They pose no known health risk at these levels. We have listed a few definitions to help you understand the information in the tables.

90th percentile: is a calculation that determines compliance with the regulation for Copper and Lead. If this number is less than the action limit, the system is compliant.

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

Exemptions: A State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which thre is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit): The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity.

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion is the same as one penny in 10 million dollars.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million is the same as one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Turbidity: Measurement of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants and our filtration system.

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 service lines and home plumbing. Fulton County is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Important Health Information- Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants in Drinking Water- Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water

[a]EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Water Plant

Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
[b] Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.84	0.81- 0.88	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm) (measured as Nitrate-Nitrite)	10	10	0.27	N/A	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Substance (units)	EPA Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Treatment Technique (TT)	Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest amount)	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon (ratio)	TT	TT = ≥ 1	1.04	1.00 - 1.49	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	TT = 1 NTU	0.03	N/A	YES	Soil runoff
	N/A	TT = % samples less than 0.3 NTU	100% (lowest monthly percentage)	N/A	YES	Soil runoff

[a]EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminates Monitored in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Highest Amount Detected	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.07 - 1.32	1.32	YES	Water additive used to control microbes

Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Number of Positive Samples Reported	% Positive Samples in the Total Number of Samples Collected	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria (%) (% positive samples in total # of samples collected per month)	5% or less of all samples can be positive	0	0	0	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. Coli bacteria (# of positive samples)	0	0	0	N/A	YES	Human or animal fecal waste

Substance (units)	Action Level (AL) or MCL (90% of the samples collected must be at or below the AL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	90th percentile (90% of samples taken were below this amount)	# of Samples Above Action Level (AL) (No more than 5 samples above AL allowed)	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
[c] Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.73	0 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
[c] Lead (ppb)	15	0	6.7	2 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average Reported	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does Water Meet EPA Standards?	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	60	N/A	28.9	25.8 - 35.9	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane (ppb)	80	N/A	31.4	23.0 - 34.5	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Additional copies of this report are available at your local public library.

Notes

a Waivers (exemptions) were extended to the County by the State in 2007 for the following contaminants: Arsenic, Asbestos, Cyanide, Radium and Synthetic Organic Compounds. Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) are man made products such as pesticides, gasoline components, PCB, phenols, and dioxin.

b Fluoride data is reported as a yearly average. Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1ppm.

c Samples for copper and lead are collected at the tap per EPA requirements. Samples were collected in September 2006.

Fulton County Delivers!

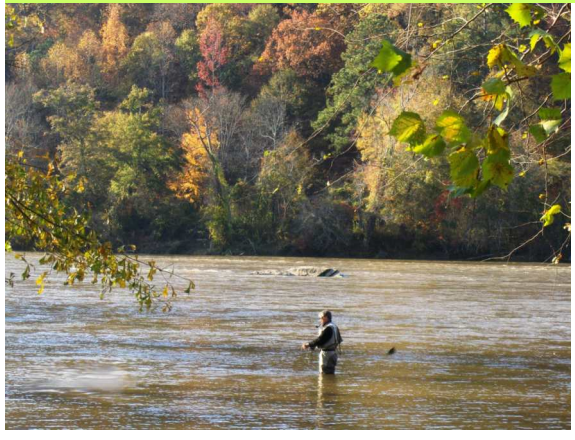
Maintaining excellent water quality is one of Fulton County's highest priorities. We are pleased to share the annual monitoring results for our drinking water system in the 2008 Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report covers tests completed from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

Source Water Assessment Program

Fulton County received a source water assessment study and report of the surface water source (the Chattahoochee River) for the AFCWRC treatment plant which supplies drinking water to the majority of north Fulton County. This assessment reviewed the adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the Chattahoochee River. These risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, agricultural fields, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities. Once the adjacent land uses were identified, they were ranked as to their potential to cause water pollution. The assessment has ranked the Chattahoochee River watershed to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. This information can help communities to understand the potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting the Chattahoochee River.

The complete report is available online at http://ww2.co.fulton.ga.us/county/dpw or can be requested by mail from the Fulton County Department of Public Works at 141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 6001, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Where do we get our water?



Lately, every time we turn on the evening news or pick up a newspaper we hear or read more and more about our water, or lack thereof. The current drought has certainly raised our consciousness about our water supply, particularly when we take a shower, flush a toilet, or get a drink of water. Have you ever wondered where our water comes from or where it goes?

The source of north Fulton's drinking water is the Chattahoochee River, which has its headwaters, or beginning, in the north Georgia mountains, near Helen, GA. It starts as a small spring bubbling up from the ground, then trickles down the mountain to be joined by several tributaries, until it forms a flowing river. This river flows into Lake Lanier, which was formed by Buford Dam in 1957. As the river leaves Lake Lanier it enters the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. This 48 mile stretch extends from Buford Dam down to Peachtree Creek.

From there, the Chattahoochee River makes its way down to the Alabama state line, where it is again dammed to form West Point Lake. Continuing south, the river joins the Flint River by flowing into Lake Seminole at the Florida state line. As the river flows out of Lake Seminole it is renamed the Apalachicola River, and finally empties into the Apalachicola Bay, in the Gulf of Mexico.

The river carries with it all of the nutrients and pollutants that it picks up along its course to the sea. These contaminants are supplied to the river through runoff from its watershed, or drainage basin, which is the area of land that drains into the river. The watershed boundaries are formed by the highest points in the land, and because of gravity, water flows downhill to the lowest point, which is where the streams, rivers, and lakes form.

Therefore,as water flows downstream, it is used and returned for others to use. Someone has used the water before it reaches us, and we will send it on downstream to another user once we are finished with it. This water cycle will continue over and over again.

About this Report:

Fulton County protects its water supply through monitoring, treatment, capital investment and long-term planning. Our team of professionals work diligently to protect the water supplied to our customers and to ensure that all federal and state drinking water standards are met. The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 requires the County to inform you of what is in your drinking water by producing and mailing out this report on a yearly basis. Although the information can be quite complex, we have taken every effort to make it both easily readable and cost effective.

In this report we will review information about your water source, the substances and contaminants we test for, the water treatment processes, related health information and avenues available for your participation. The most important information contained in this report is that Fulton County's drinking water quality continues to meet or exceed all state and federal regulations.

Working with our customers, the County continues to implement programs and projects that maintain and strengthen the drinking water system. It is important that our customers know that they, their families and businesses receive high quality drinking water.