The Facts About 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 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;

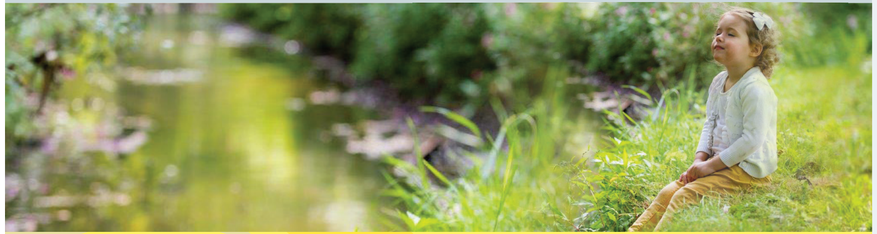
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and herbicides, from 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, 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.

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 which must provide the same protection for public health.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my water smell funny?
Bleach or Chemical odors are often a result of the chlorine added to the water. It usually goes away after the water is exposed to air for few minutes.
Rotten eggs (Sulfurous), or sewage-like odor: Organic matter such as hair, soap, and food waste can accumulate in the drain producing a gas smelling like rotten eggs. Disinfect the drain by flushing with water and chlorine.

Is my water hard or soft?
Water in our distribution system is soft: 1 to 2 grain or about 20 ppm calcium carbonate.

Is there fluoride in our water?
Yes, a little less than 1 part per million (ppm). It is sufficient to prevent tooth decay in children. No additional fluoride supplements are needed.

My water is milky looking, why?
The most common cause is air in the line. If the pressure is high, it traps lots of small bubbles that give a milky appearance. If the water clears on standing, it is air bubbles.

How can I get my water tested?
Contact our Water Quality Laboratory at 404 612-9429 or 404 612-9427 to schedule a test. A fee may apply.

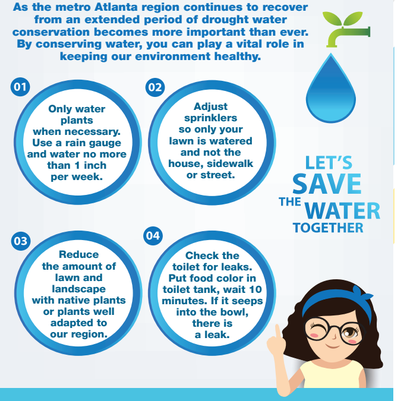
Where Your Water Comes From

The source of drinking water for the North Fulton Water System is the Chattahoochee River which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County and several environmental groups. This surface water supply is processed at the Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water Treatment Plant (AFCWTP) located in Johns Creek. The plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has consistently won numerous awards in the water industry.

Fulton County and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment that itemized potential sources of surface water pollution within the watershed areas of our water supply. The Chattahoochee River was found to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. The full source water assessment report is available on our website at http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/images/stories/WR/water/CCR/SWAP_summary.pdf or upon written request.

Tips to Conserve

As the metro Atlanta region continues to recover from an extended period of drought water conservation becomes more important than ever. By conserving water, you can play a vital role in keeping our environment healthy.



Water less! Irrigate your landscape only when needed, and comply with local drought response restrictions.

Promoting Water Stewardship

Fulton County protects its water supply through monitoring, treatment, investment and long-term planning. Working with our customers, Fulton County implements programs and projects that strengthen our drinking water system.

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 meetings, programs, and volunteer opportunities. Some of our interactive programs include:

- Adopt-A-Stream
- Rain Barrel Workshops
- Fats, Rags, Roots, Oils, Grease(FROG) Workshops
- Facility Tours
- Teacher Resources\Workshops
- Creek and Community Clean-ups

Why should you get involved? Your water system provides you with fresh drinking water, great recreational opportunities like canoeing and fishing, and serve as a pleasant respite from our busy lives. Volunteering is your opportunity to give back to the environment.

Notice of upcoming meetings and events is posted at the Government Center and on our website. For additional questions, please contact our office at 404-612-7400 during normal business hours. An online version of this report is available at www.fultoncountyga.gov.

Fulton County Department of Public Works
141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 6001, Atlanta, GA 30303
http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/fcwr-home
(404) 612 - 7400

David E. Clark, Director

Water testing performed from January 1 to December 31, 2016.
WSID GA 1210005

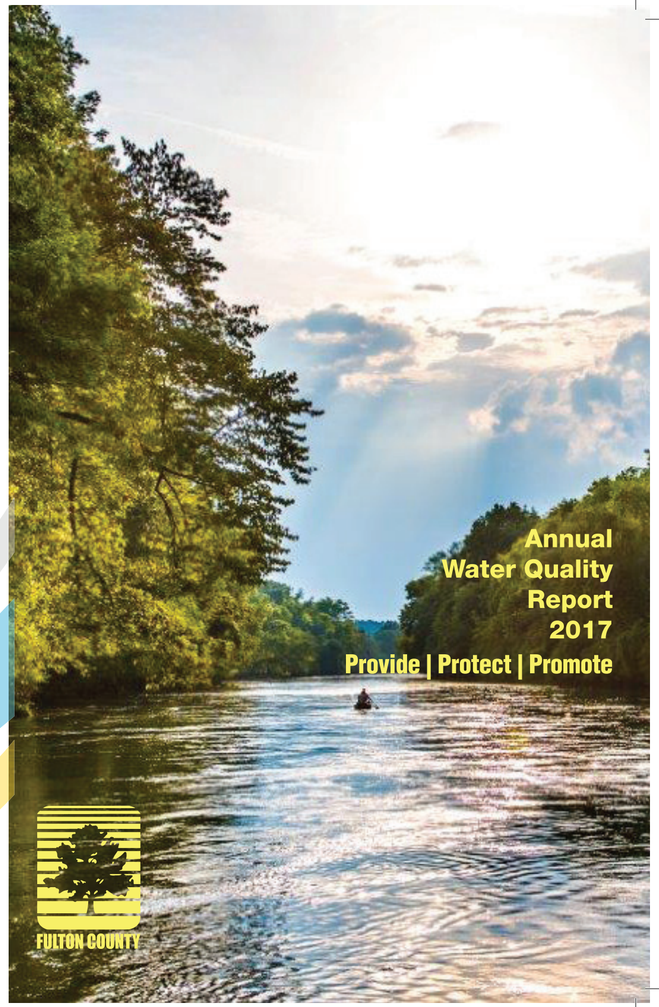
Important information about your drinking water.
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

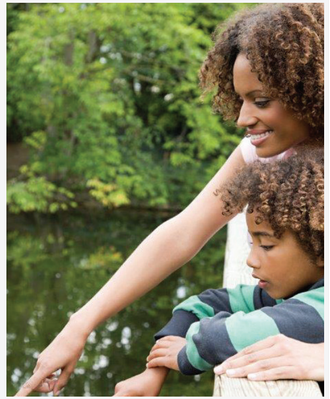
John H. Eaves, Chairman, District 7 (At-Large)

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman, District 2
Liz Hausmann, District 1
Lee Morris, District 3
District 4, Vacant
Marvin S. Arrington Jr, District 5
Emma I. Darnell, District 6

Dick Anderson, County Manager



Providing You Safe Drinking Water



Although we often take it for granted, Fulton County's drinking water is one of the many things that makes our region special and adds to our quality of life. Our dedicated teams of professionals work diligently every day to manage this resource so the rest of us can turn on a faucet or flush the toilet.

We, the employees of the Fulton County Department of Public Works, are proud to share the annual monitoring results for our drinking water system. This federally required report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), covers all testing completed from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. We are especially happy to be able to report that the quality of our water is excellent, having met or exceeded the standards and requirements set by the EPA.

Please take a moment to read this report and discover what goes into delivering water to your tap, and our commitment to providing you clean and safe water, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Lead in Drinking Water

Recent headlines have caused many Fulton County residents to inquire about the presence of lead in our drinking water system. Rest assured, we take any potential lead exposure very seriously. The safety and quality of the water we supply to you is of great importance to us. Our treatment process minimizes the tendency for lead to enter the water, and our results show that we have been very successful in our efforts. We are required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the State once every three years. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15 ug/l for lead and we are well within compliance of these limits.

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. The Tom Lowe AFCWTP 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 (800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What's In Our Water?

The results of our monitoring in 2016 are shown in this table. The most important information in this report is that the substances detected by our monitoring and reported to you in this table pose no known health risk at these levels. Listed below are a few definitions to help you interpret the water quality monitoring data.

90th Percentile: Calculation that determines compliance with the regulation for copper and lead. If this number is less than the action level then the system is compliant.
Action Level: 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 an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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 there 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. A good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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).

Water Quality Monitoring Results
(Testing Period: January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016)

EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Water Plant

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does Water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.71	0.68 - 0.71	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm) (measured as Nitrate-Nitrite)	10	10	0.52	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)**	**Does Water meet EPA standard?**	**Typical Source**
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ratio)	TT	TT = ≥ 1	1.07	1.00 – 1.07	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	TT = 1	0.05	N/A	YES	Soil runoff
	N/A	TT = % samples less than 0.3 NTU	100% (lowest monthly percentage)	N/A	YES	Soil runoff

EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does Water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.44	0.09--1.44	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
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 standard?**	**Typical Source**
Copper (ppb) (collected in July 2015)	1300	1300	100	0 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (collected in July 2015)	15	0	2.5	1 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 Number of Positive Samples Reported**	**% of Positive Samples in the Total Number of Samples Collected**	**Does Water meet EPA standard?**	**Typical Source**
Total Coliform (% positive samples in total # of samples collected per month)	5% monthly samples are positive	0	4	2.7	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)	**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**	**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**	**Highest Level Detected Average**	**Range Detected (lowest to highest)**	**Does Water meet EPA standard?**	**Typical Source**
Haloacetic Acid HAA5 (ppb)	60	N/A	30.2	17.5 – 43.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	52.4	18.1 – 68.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination

***Stage 2 Monitoring for TTHM/HAA5 began May 2012. Data is based on locational running averages.**

Waivers (exemptions) were extended to the County by the State in January 2017 through December 2019 for the following Synthetic Organic Compounds: Alachlor, Aldicarb Sulfone, Aldicarb Sulfoxide, Atrazine, Benzo (A) Pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlorodane, Dalapon, Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate, Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), Dinoseb, Diquat, Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate, Endothall, Endrin, Ethlyene Dibromide (EDB), Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexaclorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxymyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Simazine, 2,4-D, Toxapene, 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin).

Inorganic Constituents: Asbestos and Cyanide

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

An Award Winning Year!

Fulton County received the following industry awards for outstanding performance in 2016:

- The American Water Works Association (AWWA) President's Award for the Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water Treatment Plant (AFCWTP), the first in the State of Georgia.
- The AWWA Director's Award for the Tom Lowe AFCWTP.
- The National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award in Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy, and Sustainability for the South Fulton Waterwise Demonstration Garden.
- The Georgia Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Alliance's Program of the Year Award.
- The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Platinum Award for the Tom Lowe AFCWTP.
- The GAWP Plant of the Year Award for the Johns Creek Environmental Campus (JCEC) Water Reclamation Facility.
- The GAWP Platinum Award for 100% Permit Compliance for the Big Creek, Camp Creek, JCEC and Little River Water Reclamation Facilities.
- The GAWP Gold Award for the JCEC and Little River Land Application Facilities.
- The GAWP Wastewater Collections System Gold Award.
- Continued recognition as a WaterFirst Community in Georgia.
- Continued recognition as a WaterSense Promotional Partner by the U.S. EPA.

System Overview

- 45 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) available
- Serves Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, and 80% of Roswell
- 243,000± population served
- 16.7 Million Gallons of Total Storage Capacity
- 11 elevated storage tanks
- 3 ground storage tanks
- 1,200 miles of 8-to 54-inch diameter water mains
- 15,000 fire hydrants
- 21,000 valves and related equipment