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: households, urban storm water, agricultural livestock operations, urban runoff, and residential uses; industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining activities, and agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; surface water supply is processed at the Chattahoochee River, which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County and several environmental groups. This water is then treated by the Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water system located in Atlanta. The plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has been awarded numerous awards in the water industry.

Fulton County in conjunction with the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment which assessed certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for certain contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Water usage in Fulton County varies and has been decreasing. Fixing leaks, brushing, drinking, and flushing. Fixing leaks, water usage in Fulton County varies and residents have saved over the last eight years an average of 31 gallons per household and residents have saved over the last eight years an average of 31 gallons per household per day. As water travels over the pond, reservoirs, springs, and streams, it includes rivers, lakes, streams, and septic systems. The sources of drinking water for the North Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment which assessed certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for certain contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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Where Your Water Comes From

The source of drinking water for the North Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment which assessed certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for certain contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sang Kim
Water Resources Staff Engineer

I manage various construction projects for Public Services related to the drinking water system. This includes the construction of new facilities, including water treatment plants, desalination plants, and water pumps. I work closely with engineers and construction managers to ensure that the projects are completed on time and within budget. I also work with other departments, such as Public Works, to ensure that the water system is operating efficiently and effectively.
**Gallons Saved Per Day**

and wildlife; agricultural livestock operations, treatment plants, septic systems, that may come from sewage such as viruses and bacteria, Microbial contaminants, can pick up substances resulting occurring minerals and, in some the ground, it dissolves naturally surface of the land or through wells. As water travels over the ponds, reservoirs, springs, and include rivers, lakes, streams, such as salts and metals, which can be expected to 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 surface water, such as 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 materials, and it can pick up substances resulting from the activities of animals or from human activity.

**Mishandled contaminants**, toxins, or the hallmark of a natural resource, water. Because they are our customers, we must be involved in protecting and enjoying the precious water resources throughout the county. All training, supplies, and support are provided for you. The contribution of your time can make a very big difference to the water quality in your neighborhood.

**Where Your Water Comes From**

The source of drinking water for the North Fulton County is the Chattahoochee River, which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County, and several environmental groups. This river runs through the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and is one of the best measures of stream health is looking at the life that the stream is supporting. We use aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators because they are easy to identify and classify. Coming soon! We are expanding our program to include bacterial monitoring. Monitoring the bacterial levels of our waterways will give us an even better snapshot of what is happening in our waterways. Citizens are regular people who are interested in water quality information, it is important to all of us. Biological monitoring is conducted quarterly and is an even better chance to get up close and personal with your adopted stream section. Volunteers do water quality monitoring at selected sites. Water samples are collected at designated sites and analyzed for a variety of parameters, including pH, dissolved oxygen, and potential pollutant loads. The full water quality assessment report is available on our website at http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/images/stories/WR/water/CCR/summary.pdf or upon written request.

**Fulton County Residential Water Consumption**

**Adopt-A-Stream**

The Adopt-A-Stream program is a citizen's volunteer stream monitoring program that assesses the health of local waterways through chemical and biological parameters, including pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and macroinvertebrates (stream-dwelling bugs, including insects, crustaceans, worms, snails, and clams). Surveys. The hands-on activities of the Adopt-A-Stream program can be educational and fun for citizens of all ages, and any level of involvement is welcomed. Adopt-A-Stream is a state-wide program administered through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Fulton County is certified by the state to offer training and certification to our citizens in this program. All data collected by our volunteers is entered into the state’s database and is accessible on our website.

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Lead in Drinking Water

At Fulton County, we know how important and of great quality the water we supply to you is of great importance. Our results show that we have done an excellent job in pursuing our treatment process to minimize the tendency for lead to enter the 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. For example, lead can enter drinking water if lead-containing solder is used in certain plumbing repairs.

Did you know that your irrigation can contaminate your and your neighbor’s drinking water? An irrigation system makes watering lawns and gardens easier. However, improperly maintained or damaged systems can contaminate your private water system with weed killers, fertilizers and other chemicals. If your home’s drinking water supply is connected to the irrigation system, your neighbor’s water is at risk as well. To prevent contamination from backflowing into the public water system, it is important that you install a backflow device. Contact the Fulton County Public Protection Section with questions and concerns: Jason Depas, Backflow Prevention Coordinator, at 404-612-4232 or Jason.Depas@fultoncountyga.gov.

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Cross-connections that can potentially contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water distribution line intersects any other water pollution source, including chemicals (such as an conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, and irrigation systems). Cross-connections can contaminate the drinking water from the foreign source, if the foreign source is contaminated or if the water distribution system has been contaminated from backflow.

What is Our Water?

The reports of our monitoring in 2017 are shown in the table below. The most important information in this report is that the substances detected by our monitoring and reported to you in this table prove your drinking water are of great importance. Each of these can be seen in a few definitions to help you interpret the water quality monitoring data when selected.

Table: Lead in Drinking Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance (Units)</th>
<th>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)</th>
<th>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MCLG)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppb)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppb)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride (ppm)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Treatment Technique (TT): A list of processes intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Treatability Assessment of the runway-related contaminant is below.

A good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants.

Additional copies of this report are available on our public library.
We are pleased to present you with Fulton County’s 2016 Water Quality Report. As your water provider, Fulton County is committed to delivering clean, safe and reliable drinking water to your home and the community. We are especially happy to report that the quality of our water is excellent and safe, having met or exceeded all state and federal regulations.

We strive to deliver quality services at a fair price. The latest technology in monitoring equipment is used to provide customers assurance that their water has been treated to the highest standards in the industry. Our goal is to preserve our precious resources, while preparing for future challenges. As a water-treatment system we stay vigilant, don’t cut corners, and do our best to maintain the water quality. Our employees highlighted in this report reflect a few of the approximately 250 Fulton County Public Services professionals who are diligently every day to manage this resource and to ensure customer receive outstanding service.

In this report you will find information on our drinking water source programs and regulations that protect your health. We provide programs to all of our residents about water stewardship. Your Division for 30 years.

John Henderson
Senior Clerk Leade
100 Innovation Drive, Building C
Fulton County Government Office Park
Mableton, GA 30126
(770) 427-2372
Shelley Lange
Environmental Education Coordinator
100 Innovation Drive, Building C
Fulton County Government Office Park
Mableton, GA 30126
(770) 427-2372

Cross-Connections Cross-connections can potentially contaminate drinking water distribution lines as a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water system intersects another system containing chemicals (such as an air conditioning systems, fire sprinklers, or irrigation systems, or air pressurized systems of questionable authenticity). Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the drinking water system is lowered due to a break in the water main. When the reverse pressure is greater than the backflow pressure, the cross-connections could potentially backflow from the equipment or other source of chemicals. Did you know that your irrigation can contaminate your and your neighbor’s drinking water?

In an irrigation system making waters and gardens easier to work, however properly maintained or mis-managed your private water system with weeds, fertilizers and other pollutants could easily move into your home’s drinking water supply. At Fulton County, we have our private water systems monitored with 85,274 water meters. If you have a private water system, you need to be aware that your neighborhood’s water is at risk as well. To prevent cross-connection backflowing into the public water system, it is important that you install a backflow device. The Fulton County Code Enforcement Section with concerned officials, Jason Depas, Backflow Prevention Coordinator, at 404-612-4322 or Jason.Depas@fultoncountyga.gov.

Lead in Drinking Water

At Fulton County, we are dedicated to the highest level of safety and quality of the water we supply to you, and it is of great importance to us. Our results show that through our dedicated and consistent treatment process to maintain the tendency for lead to enter the water.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health effects for drinking water. For drinking water, lead is in greatest levels for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and devices associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking 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 lead exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4778) or at http://water.epa.gov/lead.html.

The concentration of a contaminant, which, if present, triggers testing or treatment requirements that a water system must follow.

4.1 Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. A contaminant that does not exceed the MCL can safely be consumed over a lifetime following exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4778) or at http://water.epa.gov/lead.html.

4.2 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water that health experts believe is safe to consume for all people, including children. If present, elevated levels of a chemical in your water can cause serious health effects to the persons who are exposed to it.

Shelley Lange
Environmental Education Coordinator

One of the joys I have as Environmental Education Coordinator is getting in touch with interested adults about water issues, learning and speaking to schools and community groups about how we do our jobs at Fulton County, and how we appreciate and value the water that we have. The Clean Water Act mandates that water can be used to help us sustain it.

Sulfate

Amount Detected

4

Range Detected

3.2 - 7.2

MCL

2

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

The level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Dangers of exceeding the Action Level (AL) (No detection limit)

Increased dispositional requirement, an overview of the cost of the potential health effects, and a measure of safety. The MRDL is the level of a chemical in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of adverse health effects to persons who consume water containing the contaminant over a lifetime.

TTHM (ppb)

90th Percentile:

1.0

Detected

90th Percentile:

1.0

Average:

0.68 - 0.71

Highest Amount:

60

Does water meet EPA standard?

YES

Average:

2.13 - 1.25

Highest Level:

10

Does water meet EPA standard?

YES

Average:

0.23 - 1.26

Highest Level:

1

Does water meet EPA standard?

YES

Average:

1.00 - 1.00

Highest Amount:

TT

Our drinking water is excellent and safe, having met or exceeded all state and federal regulations.

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5. Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant, which, if present, triggers testing or treatment requirements that a water system must follow.

4.1 Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. A contaminant that does not exceed the MCL can safely be consumed over a lifetime.

Federal standards are regulations (the “MCL”) that the public water systems must follow. It is important to note that the MCL is not a detection limit. The MCL is an acceptable range of concentrations in the water. The MCL is based on the health effects of consuming the contaminant over a lifetime.

The concentration of a contaminant in drinking water that health experts believe is safe to consume for all people, including children. If present, elevated levels of a chemical in your water can cause serious health effects to the persons who are exposed to it.

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