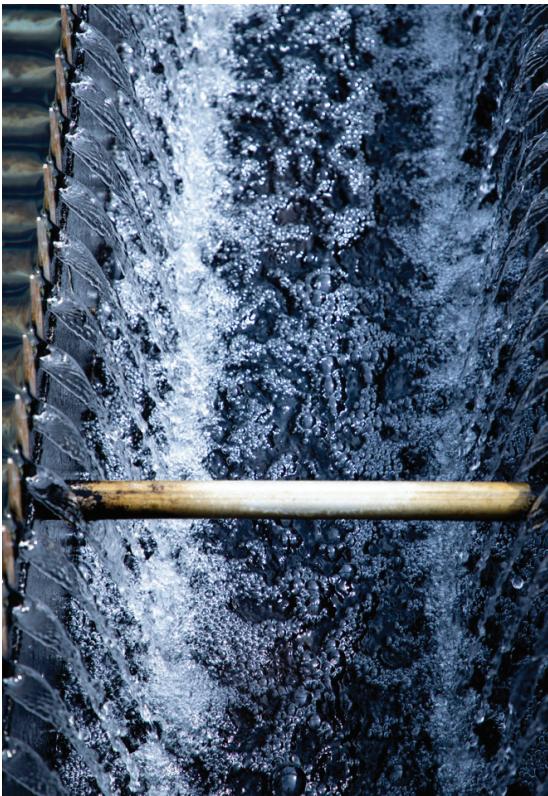




FULTON  
COUNTY

# 2019 Annual Water Quality Report

Provide | Protect | Promote



## A message to our valued customers

Fulton County is proud to be your local water service provider, and we have an exceptional track record in providing some of the best drinking water in the state. The 2018 results are in, and as in previous years, Fulton County continues to provide water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality regulations. Additionally, our water system had no violations.



We know how important clean, safe, reliable, and affordable water is to your daily life. This expectation motivates our 250 plus employees to monitor and test every stage of the water treatment process, around the clock, to ensure your drinking water meets all quality standards. This report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2018 in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to review this report. It contains information on Fulton County's water source, how the water is treated and monitored, laboratory results for compounds detected in the water, various program initiatives, and volunteer opportunities. Copies of this report can be viewed online at [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov) or at your public library. Customers can also receive a copy of the report upon request by calling 404-612-7400.



### From the Director

On behalf of the Fulton County Department of Public Works, I am pleased to share the 2019 Drinking Water Quality Report with our customers. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency requires an annual report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, from all community water systems nationwide. In simple language, this report is the nutritional label for your drinking water.

**David E. Clark, P.E.,**  
Director

The safety and integrity of our drinking water is a top priority here at Fulton County. Sound management of our system, ongoing infrastructure investments, and long-term planning have created a water system that is both efficient and resilient. If you have questions or comments about this report, please call us at 404-612-7400 or email [david.clark@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:david.clark@fultoncountyga.gov). We welcome your interest in Fulton County's water system and services.

# Lead in Drinking Water



At Fulton County the safety and quality of the water we supply to you is of great importance to us. Our results show that we have been very successful in 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. The Tom Lowe Atlanta - Fulton County Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components inside homes or commercial buildings. 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. Periodically clean out the aerators (screens on the faucet). These screens can trap sediment and debris over time. 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>.

## Should I be concerned about lead in my water?

The primary way lead and copper can enter drinking water systems is through the corrosion of **(1)** the plumbing material inside your home or **(2)** the service line going to your home. If that service line is composed primarily of lead, there is a potential for lead contamination (especially, if corrosive water flows through the line or sits stagnant in it). Fortunately, the North Fulton distribution system has virtually no lead service lines. The internal home plumbing of concern is "copper piping with lead solder" which was banned in Georgia in 1986. Homes built between January 1, 1983 and June 30, 1988 are what we target. To protect you from lead and copper contamination that could occur from your home plumbing, Fulton County uses corrosion control techniques that reduce the water's ability to leach lead and copper from the pipes into the water stream. With these measures in place, any concern about lead in drinking water should be at a minimum.

## Checking for lead in your water

Fulton County is required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the state once every three years; our last sampling cycle was August 2018. Primarily, we select homes built between the target dates of January 1, 1983 and June 30, 1988. We do not test every home that meets that criteria; however, we select a representative 50 homes to participate in the study. These customers are issued sample bottles and are asked to collect the first draw of water the next morning. We retrieve the samples which are then tested for lead and copper. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15 ug/l for lead and 1300 ug/l copper. Our system is in compliance of these limits (See the Lead-Copper results in this report).



The results of our monitoring in 2018 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 that a water system must follow.

**Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet maximum contaminant level 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 to control 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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity, or cloudiness of a liquid.

**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.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** 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.

## Water Quality Monitoring Results

(Testing Period: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018)

EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Water Plant						
Substance (units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	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 that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (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	1.01	1.00 – 1.07	YES	Naturally present in the environment
	TT	TT = 1	0.23	N/A	YES	Soil runoff
Turbidity (NTU)	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	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.23	0.40--1.23	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	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 August 2018)	1300	1300	150	0 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (collected in August 2018)	15	0	1.5	2 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Substance (units)	Maximum Contaminant Level	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	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% of monthly samples are positive	0	2	1.3	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	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Highest Level Detected Average	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acid HAA5** (ppb)	60	N/A	27.0	15.5-36.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane** TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	42.0	15.5 – 69.8	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination

\*Stage 2 monitoring for TTHM/HAA5 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, Ethylene Dibromide (EDB), Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxyethyl (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.

# 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 it 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and herbicides, from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;

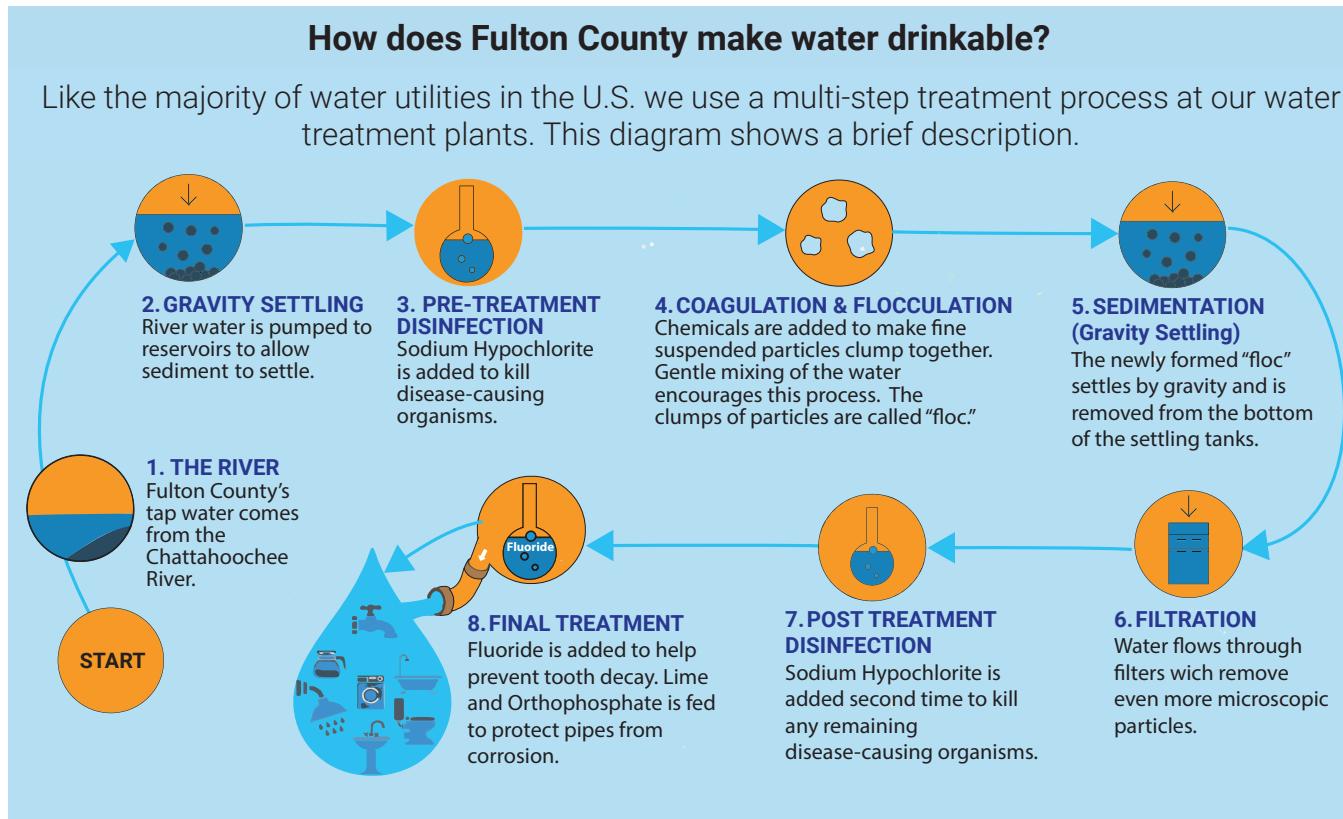
**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Special Notice for Immuno-Compromised Persons

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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at 800-426-4791.

## 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 located in Johns Creek. The plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has consistently won numerous awards in the water industry.



## Public Involvement: Get to Know Your H2O

Water quality and safety are often difficult to understand and the information in this brief report may not answer all of your questions. For additional information, questions or concerns, please contact Corlette Banks at 404-612-7400 or email us at [corlette.banks@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:corlette.banks@fultoncountyga.gov). Additional copies of this report are available at your public library or on our website: [fultoncountyga.gov](http://fultoncountyga.gov).

Our public education and outreach team offers a diverse list of opportunities for Fulton County citizens to get involved in helping protect our drinking water source. For more information on the opportunities listed below, please contact our Public Education and Outreach team at 404-612-7400.

### Community Outreach

Event Exhibits | Public Meetings | Facility Tours | Anti-Litter Campaigns | Civic Group Presentations

### Stewardship

Rivers Alive Cleanups | Georgia Adopt-a-Stream Trainings| Adopt-a Drain Marking

### Workshops

Fix-a-Leak | Septic Tank | Green Cleaning | Water Conservation 101 | Rain Barrel

## Why choose tap water over bottled water?



- It's safe! Your tap water is continuously monitored by water quality laboratory professionals and treated to meet or exceed standards set by the State of Georgia and the Federal Government.
- It's eco-friendly! Americans purchase roughly 50 billion water bottles each year. That's more than 150 bottles per person and fewer than 25 percent of those are recycled. Reusable water bottles reduce landfill waste, litter and energy use.
- It's convenient! We're fortunate to live in a part of the world where clean, safe drinking water is available to us at the push of a button or turn of a handle.
- It's affordable! One gallon of safe, reliable Fulton County tap water costs less than \$0.02, while a gallon of bottled water costs \$1.21 on average. That's 600 times the cost of tap! You could save \$200 a year by getting your recommended eight glasses a day from the faucet instead of from a single-use plastic bottle.

### Fulton County Department of Public Works

141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 6001, Atlanta, GA 30303

<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/fcwr-home>

(404) 612 - 7400

Water testing performed from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

WSID 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

**Robb Pitts**, Chairman, (At-Large)

**Lee Morris**, Vice-Chairman, District 3

**Liz Hausmann**, District 1

**Bob Ellis**, District 2

**Natalie Hall**, District 4

**Marvin S. Arrington Jr.**, District 5

**VACANT**, District 6

**Dick Anderson**, County Manager

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