

Celebrating 45+ Years of Excellence in Water Quality

For over 45+ years, Fulton County has provided you with safe, high quality and great tasting water at very low cost. Our dedicated teams of approximately 250 Water Resources professionals work diligently every day to manage this resource and to ensure customers receive outstanding service for the money they entrust to us through rates and fees.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires an annual water quality report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), from all community water systems nationwide. 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.

Since great water quality is an essential component of a healthy community and economy, this report is really about our commitment to you, the people we serve. It's about how your water choices can impact the supply and the environment. It's about how we're protecting your water supply for quality and security. It's also about how we can partner to make sure we have the water we need today and tomorrow. Take a moment to read this report and learn about your water system and some of what goes into delivering water to your tap. And learn why we can celebrate that after 45+ years, Fulton County still delivers some of the best water in the state.



Multi Family Toilet Rebates

Water conservation is a top priority for Fulton County. On average, older toilets can use 5-8 gallons per flush! That is a lot of water wasted, and money down the drain! One way Fulton County is helping to conserve is through our Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program (MFTRP). If you live in a condo, townhome or apartment that was built before 1993 and on a master meter, your property may be eligible. The program provides a \$50.00 rebate per toilet that uses more than 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf). It must be replaced with a 1.28 gpf or less EPA Water Sense certified toilet. The maximum rebate (credit to the water bill) amount allowed is \$7,500.00 (150 toilets) and is given on a first come first serve basis. This program is subject to available funding.

For more information on requirements visit our web site or contact Jennifer.McLaurin@fultoncountyga.gov or call 404-612-8745.

Biofilms

Mold, bacteria, and fungi readily grow on damp surfaces in our homes, especially around bathroom and kitchen fixtures. These microorganisms, which are naturally present in the air and non-potable water, can produce biofilms, or a glue-like coating, to help them stick to surfaces. Biofilms can cause your water to have a musty taste or odor and sometimes form a slimy stain (black, red, or pink).

In order for biofilms to occur, the right environmental conditions must be present. Take away the microbes' food and water sources by installing ventilation fans in bathrooms, using a dehumidifier, and utilizing a kitchen vent hood when cooking. Keep countertops, sinks, drains and water taps clean by using a disinfecting cleaning product to remove shampoo, hair spray, soaps, and kitchen food, which can promote biofilm growth.

Although biofilms can be unpleasant they are generally not hazardous to our health. The best defense against contamination is to keep your home clean and dry.



Through the Eyes of a Child

Kids can make a big difference in conserving water by starting at home and changing the way their families, friends and classmates use water. Our annual art calendar gives us an opportunity to see water through the eyes of a child. The students draw a picture showing how they use water, save water, and keep pollution out of our waterways.

The contest is open to any student grade K-12 attending a public, private, charter or home school within the Fulton County School System. Artwork will be accepted in the fall of 2016 for the next calendar.



Safe and great tasting water!

Get to Know Your H₂O

When you know more about your water system, you're more likely to appreciate, protect and conserve it. We invite you to tour our drinking water plant or any of our wastewater plants. While the facilities are closed to unsupervised public access, we offer guided tours, programs and events throughout the year. Visit our website for more detailed information.

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



Fast Facts:

- Our water comes from a surface water source, the Chattahoochee River.
- Your water is treated at the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission (AFCWRC) facility located in Johns Creek, GA.
- 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.
- Citizens are invited to get more involved through public hearings, notice of which is posted at the Government Center and on our website.
- For problems regarding water services, please call 770-640-3040.
- For billing or reconnection questions, please call 404-612-6830.
- To discuss this report, please contact Corlette Banks at 404-612-7400.

Fulton County Department of Public Works
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Kun Suwanarpa, P.E., Interim Director

Water testing performed from
January 1 to December 31, 2015.
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

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Dick Anderson, County Manager

HARD vs SOFT: What's the Difference?

No doubt you have traveled to different parts of the United States, or even the world, and noticed that the water either tastes unusual or that you just can't get a good lather up with your soap. The water elsewhere is different – maybe not better or worse—but definitely different. When the naturally soft rainwater makes its way through the soil and into our waterways it may pick up essential minerals like chalk, calcium and magnesium that make it "hard".

Hard water, with its high mineral content, leaves clothes dingy, dishes spotty and soap scum in your bathtub. Soap and shampoo are less effective due to their reactions with highly mineralized water, and the rich and bubbly lather that we all associate with cleanliness is only a reality in that TV commercial. Hard water is hard on appliances, too— calcium build-up in washing machines, dishwashers and water heaters means that they have to work harder and use more energy.

In Fulton County our water is naturally soft and we test for it twice a day! At the end of the drinking water treatment process, we do add a little lime to bring the pH adjustment back to between 7.2 - 7.4, which also helps with corrosion control. Our water usually falls in the target area of 25mg/L, which is considered soft, and we don't have to do too much to keep it that way. So drink up your soft Fulton County tap water - tasty and easy on the wallet!



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Public Works Main Number: 404 612-7400

Lead in Drinking Water

Recent headlines have caused many Fulton County residents to inquire about the presence of lead in our drinking water system. Questions such as: Should I be concerned about lead in my water? Is my water checked for lead, if so how often? What can I do to minimize my exposure? Rest assured, 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 at this.

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. AFCWRC 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>.



Determining the type of plumbing you have is one of the first steps in identifying your potential exposure to lead. Where you live and when your plumbing was installed are also important as it relates to quality of your drinking water. Service lines composed primarily of lead have a potential to leach lead contamination into the water, especially if corrosive water flows through it or sits stagnant. The good news is that the North Fulton Distribution System, built primarily in the 1980s, has virtually no lead service lines. Inside your home, copper piping with lead solder can be a cause of lead contamination. Copper pipes with lead solder were banned in Georgia in 1985 and since a high proportion of our customer's homes were constructed after 1986, lead solder was not used! Older homes may still contain these plumbing systems; however, Fulton County employs corrosion control techniques that reduce the corrosivity of the water and the water's ability to carry lead from the plumbing system to the faucet.

Fulton County is 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. Our system is well within compliance of these limits.

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).



The results of our monitoring in 2015 are shown in this table. The most important information contained in this report is that Fulton County's drinking water is safe, as we continue to meet or exceed state and federal regulations. The substances detected by our monitoring and reported to you in this table pose no known health risk at these levels.

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.

Water Quality Monitoring Results (Testing Period: January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015)

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	0.70	0.67 - 0.70	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm) (measured as Nitrate-Nitrite)	10	10	0.49	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	1.06	1.00 – 1.06	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	1.43	0.20--1.43	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 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	1	0.7	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	26.2	16.9 – 31.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	47.5	16.2 – 75.1	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 2014 through December 2016 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, Oxymyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Simazine, 2,4-D, Toxapene, 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), 2,3,7,-TCDD (Dioxin).

Inorganic Constituents: Asbestos and Cyanide

The Facts About 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, 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.