



FULTON COUNTY



FULTON COUNTY ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2015

Fulton County Department of Water Resources
141 Pryor St SW, Suite 6001
Atlanta, GA 30303
<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/fcwr-home>

Water testing performed from January 1 to December 31, 2014.
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.

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. 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 Board of Commissioners

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Your Drinking Water is Safe

The quality of the drinking water that Fulton County provides to our customers is of the utmost importance. We pride ourselves on our award winning treatment facility and excellent maintenance and operation of the distribution system. Our drinking water quality consistently meets and exceeds the standards set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Securing our infrastructure from vandalism and tampering is also a top priority for us in keeping your drinking water supply safe.

An improvement plan has been developed for 11 water tower and pumping station locations to upgrade and replace the existing hardware and software for the video surveillance intrusion systems. An Internet Protocol camera, or IP camera, is a type of digital video camera commonly employed for surveillance, and which, unlike analog closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras, can send and receive data via a computer network and the Internet. Each site will have underground fiber optic lines and new poles installed for exterior camera placement. The IP cameras will feed live streaming video to County offices for round the clock monitoring from a command center. The contract has been awarded to GC&E Systems Group and AT&T; installation should take approximately 4-6 months, with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2016. For information on our Capital Improvement Program, please visit our [website](#).



Chasing Leaks



Fulton County delivers an average of 27 million gallons of drinking water on a daily basis. Of this amount, approximately 3.3 million gallons is non-revenue water which includes leakage, representing a non-revenue rate of 12.5%, which is considered relatively low. Preventing leaks is one way water is conserved; your efforts are another. The

average household can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year because of leaks. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save you about 10 percent on your water bills.

CHECK - Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures.

TWIST - Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections.

REPLACE - Check toilets for silent leaks. Replace old toilets with a WaterSense model.

Taking simple steps such as finding and fixing leaks and looking for the WaterSense label when shopping for plumbing products can make a big difference...will you start today?

Proper Disposal of Your Meds

Since we get our water from the Chattahoochee River, we are concerned with what goes into it. Oftentimes, people flush unwanted medications down the toilet, which may not be entirely removed during the wastewater treatment process. These chemical compounds are then released back into the river with the treated wastewater. The water is cleansed again at our drinking water plant, and our technology is able to detect very low levels of pharmaceuticals and personal care products. While research has not demonstrated human health impacts from these compounds, the ongoing conversation should remind us of how precious our source waters are and the need to protect them from harmful substances.

One way to keep these products out of our water supply is to properly dispose of them. The Federal Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends NOT flushing prescription drugs down the toilet. Ten free drop off locations across Fulton County are listed on our website. Another option is to mix tablets and/or liquid medicines in a plastic bag with materials, such as used cat litter, coffee grounds, dish soap, etc., and place in household trash.

Fulton County's Water ... Making the Grade

This document is in effect a report card for your drinking water, detailing how well we performed to meet the standards set forth by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for drinking water quality. As you read the detailed findings in this report you will see for yourself that Fulton County's drinking water far exceeds these standards. So go ahead....turn on your tap!



"It takes dedicated staff, great infrastructure and reliable equipment to produce the quality of water you've come to expect in Fulton County. More than 300 employees, one water treatment plant, a control center, 1,200 miles of pipes, 11 elevated storage tanks, 3 ground storage tanks, booster pumping stations, and 1 billion gallons of reservoir storage, all work together to bring you clean and safe drinking water," says Interim Director, Kun Suwanarpa. In 2014, our treatment facility again made the Honor Roll, receiving the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Platinum Award in recognition of complete and consistent compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Our facility was awarded the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Partnership for Safe Drinking Water President's Award - the first in the State of Georgia to receive this national honor. In addition, Fulton County was awarded the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' WaterFirst designation for its commitment to water resource stewardship.

Informed citizens are our best allies. For additional information, questions or concerns, email us at: director.dwr@fultoncountyga.gov

Seasonal Sprinkler System Maintenance

During the winter, your system can endure changes that are underground and not visible until you turn on the system in the spring. If you have breaks or even cracks in the pipes it can lead to water waste, plant deaths and, ultimately, a waste of money! Look for a certified irrigation professional at: http://www.irrigation.org/Certification/Find_a_Certified_Professional.aspx.

Below are a few easy tips for keeping sprinklers in great shape:

- Inspect your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads.
- As your landscape matures make sure you update your system with new sprinkler heads and rotators.
- Install a rain sensor to prevent the irrigation system from watering when the landscape has already received enough water from rainfall. Rain sensor shut-offs are required for irrigation systems installed after January 1, 2005.

For more information on water conservation efforts in Fulton County please contact Jennifer McLaurin at (404) 612-8745 or jennifer.mclaurin@fultoncountyga.gov. To learn more about maintaining a water efficient yard visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at: www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.



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.



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).



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. 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>.

The results of our monitoring in 2014 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 (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 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, 2014 - December 31, 2014)						
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	0.49	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	1.10	1.00 - 1.10	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	TT = 1	0.09	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	1.38	0.27--1.38	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 June 2012)	1300	1300	170	0 out 50 samples taken	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) (collected in June 2012)	15	0	2.5	0 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	27.3	19.2 - 39.0	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	45.5	19.7 - 55.4	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, Oxyml (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