Concerning Lead in our water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead (atomic symbol Pb) in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than those at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. In order to ensure the lowest possible lead levels, tap water should be flushed for thirty seconds to two minutes before using. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you can have the water tested. Additional information is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1 (800) 426-4791.** Contact the Cobb Extension Office at (770) 528-4070 for information regarding lead testing of your water for a nominal fee.

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States are available on the internet at **www.waterdata.com**.

Questions?
Call Customer Service
(770) 423-1000

Learn more about Cobb County Water System at

www.cobbwater.org

Send written correspondence to:
Cobb County Water System
Water Quality Report
660 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060
FAX (770) 419-6478
PWSID # 0670003

En Espanol
Este informe contiene information muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

waterSmart
SAVE WATER - SAVE TIME - SAVE MONEY!

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Cobb County Water System
Water Quality Report
660 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060-3113

Your Cobb County Water System ... did you know?

Safe drinking water and wastewater collection and treatment services are provided to nearly 600,000 people ... operations are supported through revenues from the sale of services — not from tax dollars ... Triple AAA rated!

Annually more than 23 billion gallons of safe water are distributed through approximately 2,900 miles of major lines ... 2001 Award for Laboratory Quality Assurance ...

More than 26 billion gallons of wastewater are collected annually through approximately 2,400 miles of major lines and delivered for treatment at one of four plants which have a total daily capacity of 100 million gallons ... Georgia's Plant of the Year Facility Award 2001 ...

Each month over 152,000 water meters are read, more than 15,000 fire hydrants maintained, more than 18,000 customer calls handled...

The Cobb County Water System is committed to its important role of public education and protecting the environment through its Adopt-A-Stream, Backflow Prevention, Grease & Oil Recovery and Stormwater Management programs. Additionally, we support our community through emphasis on water conservation and providing our free Xeriscape Consultations offering waterSmart landscape guidance.

Water Use Ban In Effect

The Atlanta region remains under a state drought alert and at the time of printing there are mandatory restrictions on all outdoor water use. No residential or other landscaping outdoor water use is allowed from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., seven days a week. Otherwise, outdoor water use is only permitted during the non-banned hours on the basis of even address and date, or odd address and date.

These State mandated water ban restrictions are subject to change. You are responsible for being aware of, and abiding by, current restrictions. Violations will not be excused due to non-awareness of current water ban restrictions. Violators are subject to a $500 fine plus a $20 service charge.

The official state web site for information on the drought is www.georgiadrought.org. For more information on the water ban and water conservation contact us at (770) 423-1000.

Cobb County Water System

Annual Water Quality Report

January 2001 — December 2001

Why this report?

The Cobb County Water System is committed to delivering to you, our customer, water that meets or exceeds federal and state quality standards. This 2001 Water Quality Report shows we are doing that.

Each day our priority is to do what it takes to deliver safe water to your home or business. This includes significant efforts in protecting our water resources for both existing needs and future generations.

On the following pages, the drinking water analysis provides the summary results of a continuous testing program, and demonstrates the meeting or exceeding of the goals set by federal and state agencies to protect public health. Important definitions are provided to help further clarify the information. The Cobb Water Quality Report is also posted on the Cobb County Water System's Internet website **www.cobbwater.org**. For additional information contact our Customer Service Division at (770) 423-1000.

The bottom line is we provide safe**,** quality drinking water to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year because we know that safe, good drinking water is vital to the health and well being of our community.

Who provides my water?

You are a customer of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of Cobb County Government. We distribute treated water to you and treat wastewater in a manner safe to our families and the environment.

The Water System purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a utility providing treated drinking water on a wholesale basis to other cities and counties in the region. CCMWA treats drinking water using state-of-the-art equipment and ensures water quality through continued monitoring and testing. Tap water is delivered to more than 152,000 customer accounts representing over 500,000 people in the Cobb Water System's service area.

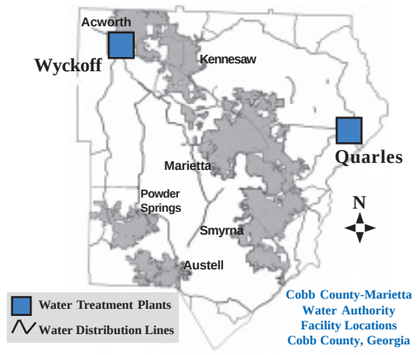
During 2001 the CCMWA completed a comprehensive source water assessment of potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. Additionally, a wellhead protection plan of our groundwater supply was completed. The resulting information is important for understanding the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies. It is used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources. For more information on this project visit the Source Water Assessment website at www.atlantaregional.com/swap.

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from one of three sources. Most of the water is drawn from the Chattahoochee River and Lake Allatoona. In recent years, a supplemental groundwater (well) source has been tapped during peak demand times. These sources are located entirely in Georgia. The CCMWA has two plants that treat as much as 136 million gallons a day (MGD) of drinking water fed from the two bodies of surface water.

- Quarles Treatment Plant on Lower Roswell Road in East Cobb treats Chattachoochee River water.
- Wyckoff Treatment Plant on Mars Hill Road in Northwest Cobb treats Lake Allatoona water.

After treatment at the CCMWA plants, the finished water is fed to the Cobb County Water System's distribution lines and finally to your home or business.



How is my water treated?

The process begins by pumping untreated water from the river or lake into sedimentation basins where large particles are removed and the water is disinfected. The water is directed to a process called *flocculation* which is a gentle mixing of the water with a coagulant. This allows particles, called "floc", to form and settle, clarifying the water. Next the water is put through a filtration system where water flows through sand filters trapping even smaller particles. After filtration, chemicals are added for final disinfection. Except for chlorine and fluoride, every chemical used in the treatment process is removed before the finished water is distributed to you.

Why are there contaminants?

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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-occuring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. There are contaminants that may be present in raw (untreated) water including: **microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

continued inside

Contaminants *continued*

inorganic compounds such as salts and metals which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming; **pesticides and herbicides** which may come from sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses; **organic chemical contaminants** including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or waste from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and **radioactive contaminants** occurring naturally or resulting from gas and oil production and mining activities.

When there are contaminants, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set treatment methods to reduce them to levels that protect human health. CCMWA's laboratory continuously monitors water quality to be sure it is properly treated to EPA standards. In, addition over 200 water samples throughout the Cobb County distribution system are taken randomly each month and tested.

Tap water is regulated by the EPA, which sets limits for the compounds that can be present in drinking water. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.**

Notice to People with Health Concerns

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, are available from the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.**

What exactly are Cryptosporidium and Giardia?

Cryptosporidium [krip´.to.spor.id´.ê.um] and ***Giardia*** [jê.är´dê.e.jär´] are microscopic parasites found in surface waters (*rivers, lakes, streams or ponds)* especially when these waters contain a high amount of sewage or animal waste. If ingested through food or drink, they can cause symptoms that include diarrhea, nausea or stomach cramps. As other conditions can cause these same symptoms, a special laboratory test is needed to confirm the cause. Your tap water is continually tested and treated to prevent exposure to these parasites. ***Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* have never been found in our treated drinking water.**

During testing of raw (untreated) water at the intake area on Lake Allatoona in 1999 and 2000, no *Cryptosporidium and/or Giardia* were detected. However, during testing of raw (untreated) water at the intake area on the Chattahoochee River north of Johnson Ferry Road, *Cryptosporidium* and/or *Giardia* were present in samples from several months during 1999.

The levels detected were not a violation and caused no health threat to the population. CCMWA's treatment process removes this contamination, so there was no need for precaution with our drinking water.

How to read this report

The table shows the results of the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority's laboratory analysis of your water during the period of January through December 2001. The table lists the name of each substance tested, the maximum level allowed in drinking water (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amounts detected, and the range of levels detected. Also noted are the usual sources of such contamination and an explanation of our findings.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has determined that the concentration of certain water quality monitoring parameters does not change frequently within our system, therefore some of the data presented in this report are greater than one year old.

Definitions

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must implement.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

n/a not applicable.

n/d not detectable.

NTU nephelometric turbidity units (measures the cloudiness of water).

ppm parts per million (or milligram per liter which corresponds to one penny in $10,000).

ppb parts per billion (or microgram per liter which corresponds to one penny in $10,000,000).

range the highest to the lowest level detected.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Substance	Date Tested	Unit	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Amount Detected	Range	Likely Source(s)	Violation
Total Coliform Bacteria (TC)	2/01, 3/01 4/01, 6/01 8/01, 12/01	percent	Less than 5% positive samples during a monthly sampling period.	0% positive samples during a monthly sampling	0.5%[b] 0.9%[a] 0.5%[b]	n/a	Naturally present in the environment.	No

[a] 2 positive samples out of 218 samples tested during the month. [b] 1 positive sample out of 214 samples tested during the month.

Drinking Water Analysis Table

(Data in this report is furnished by the CCMWA)

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Substance	Date Tested	Unit	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Amount Detected	Range	Likely Source(s)	Violation
Fluoride[1]	10/24/01	ppm	4	4	1.1	0.82 - 1.1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth.	No
Lead[2]	8/21/01	ppb	AL=15	0	10.0	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	No
Copper[3]	8/17/01	ppm	AL= 1.3	0	0.05	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	No
Nitrate	4/26/01	ppm	10	10	0.96	<0.2 - 0.96	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No

[1] Flouride is added to the drinking water to help in the prevention of dental cavities in children.
[2] Of 50 sites tested, 3 exceeded action levels (AL).
[3] No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL).

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	7/25/01	ppb	80	0	54.8	13.0 - 105.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	No
Total Haloacetic Acids (THAA's)	7/25/01	ppb	60	0	55.9	19.5 - 98.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	No
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	8/8/01	ppm	n/a	n/a	3.2	1.2 - 3.2	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from water sources such as lakes and streams.	No

ICR CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority participated in a major drinking water quality testing program called the Information Collection Rule (ICR). In the following table are the results of testing of contaminants detected. This program terminated in 1998.

Total Aldehydes	1/28/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	5.0	3.7 - 5.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Chloral hydrate	8/26/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	7.0	1.9 - 7.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Chlorate	1/28/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	124.0	22 - 124.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Chlorine dioxide	3/25/98	ppm	not regulated	not regulated	1.5	0.1 - 1.5	Drinking water disinfectant. Oxidant for contaminants.	n/a
Free Chlorine	12/16/98	ppm	4	n/a	2.0	1.6 - 2.0	Drinking water disinfectant.	No
Chlorite	3/25/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	136.0	20 - 136.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Chloropicrin	5/27/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	1.9	n/d - 1.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Total Haloacetilenitriles	5/27/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	4.4	n/a - 4.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a
Total Organic Halide (TOX)	4/29/98	ppb	not regulated	not regulated	254.0	94 - 254.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	n/a

TURBIDITY

Turbidity[4]	12/27/01	NTU	TT = 5 NTU TT = percentage of samples <0.5 NTU	0	0.18 NTU 100 %	n/a n/a	Soil runoff.	No

[4] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder effectiveness of disinfectants.