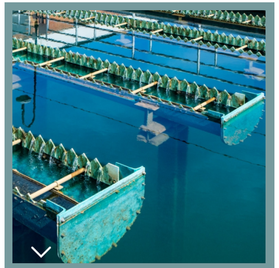
State-of-the-Art Water Treatment Plants

Hugh A. Wyckoff
Water Treatment Plant

Cobb County



James E. Quarles
Water Treatment Plant

The Cobb County Water System (CCWS), an agency of Cobb County Board of Commissioners, is committed to delivering to you, our customer, water that exceeds federal and state quality requirements. The CCWS purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a utility providing treated drinking water on a wholesale basis to cities and counties in the region. The CCMWA treats drinking water using state-of-the-art equipment and ensures water quality through continued monitoring and testing.

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) has two surface water sources supplying two treatment facilities. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from Lake Allatoona, a Corps of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee, and south Bartow counties. The Quarles Treatment Division receives water from the Chattahoochee River. After treatment at these plants, water is transported to various areas within the County where it is fed into CCWS distribution lines and finally to your home or business.

The CCMWA and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination of your drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

A Source Water Assessment is a study and report which provides the following:

1. Delineating the water supply watershed for each drinking water intake,
2. Developing an inventory of potential sources of contamination,
3. Determining the susceptibility of drinking water sources to identified potential sources of contamination, and
4. Increasing public involvement in and awareness of drinking water watershed concerns.

What Can Be Expected In Untreated Source Water

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which 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** which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic (man-made) and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline 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.

What Is Cryptosporidium?

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks; however, immuno-compromised individuals, infants, small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. The monitoring of our source water performed in 2013 had no detection of cryptosporidium. Testing was only required for a period of nine months in 2013.

This Consumer Confidence Report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water as required by the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act.

Why Are There Contaminants In Water?

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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established treatment methods to reduce contaminants 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, a minimum of 240 water samples throughout the CCWS distribution system are taken each month and tested. About 2,880 samples were tested during this reporting period. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Lake Allatoona

Chattahoochee River

Lead In 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 CCWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. The water has been treated to minimize leaching of such materials. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 or more seconds before using cold tap water for drinking, preparation, 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Health Related Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as persons 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.

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 EPA's ***Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.***

Pick Up After Our Pets

Based on statistics calculated using the US Census 2019 and the APPA National Pet Owners Survey 2019-2020...

Be the ***Solution*** to Water Pollution

- 67% of U.S. households own at least 1 pet, which equates to 84.9 millions homes.
- There are at least 190,000 pet dogs in Cobb County.
- The average dog poops around ¾ of a pound per day.
- That's over 66 tons of dog poop a day in Cobb County alone!
- Pet waste that is not bagged and trashed can get carried away by rainwater to our rivers and lakes. This can upset the natural balance of our local waterways and cause excessive algae growth. Do your doody and pick it up!

For more information on the source water project visit http://www.atlantaregional.org or request information by mail from the ARC:
Attn: Source Water Assessment
Environmental Planning Division
Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree Street, NE
International Tower Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

Contact Information

Water Bill Questions.....770.419.6200
Emergency | Report A Broken Water Line.....770.419.6201
Water Conservation.....770.528.8214
Volunteer Opportunities.....770.528.1482

Information about this report can be obtained from Jennifer McCoy of the Cobb County Water System at 770.528.8215.

Definitions That Help You Understand This Report

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must implement.
EC+ – *E. coli*-positive.
LRAA – Locational Running Annual Average.
MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: 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.
MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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.
n/a – not applicable.
NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Measures the cloudiness of water.
ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L), i.e., one penny in $10,000,000.
ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L), i.e., one penny in $10,000.
PWS – Public water system.
TC+ – Total coliform-positive.
TT - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

15% Recycled Content

Drinking Water Analysis Table

The tables show the results of our water quality analyses. Every contaminant *regulated* by EPA that was detected in the water, even at trace levels, is listed here. **All Results Meet Or Exceed EPA standards.**
(The data presented in this report are furnished by the CCMWA and are from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.)

EPA Regulated Inorganic Substances or Contaminants

Substance (Unit)	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride [1] (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.93	0.70 - 0.93	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite [2] (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.59	0.28 - 0.59	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	NO
Substance (Unit)	**Date Tested**	**AL**	**MCLG**	**90% of Tested sites were less than**	**# Sites Exceeding the AL**	**Major Sources**	**Violation**
Lead [3] (ppb)	2020	15	0	2.0	1*	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper [4] (ppm)	2020	1.3	0	0.040	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO

Notes: [1] Fluoride is added to water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children. [2] Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as N. [3] The next round of testing is due in 2023. [4] The next round of testing is due in 2023. * Sampling covers all of CCMWA's system. No CCWS sites exceeded AL.

Disinfection By-Products, By-Product Precursors and Disinfectant Residuals

Substance (Unit)	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2020	80	n/a	51[1] Highest LRAA at site 501	21.6 - 77.1	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	2020	60	n/a	32[1] Highest LRAA at site 501,502,508,512,513	16 - 43.7	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
TOC (Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2020	TT	n/a	1.9	1.00 - 1.90	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	NO
Chlorite (ppm)	2020	1.0	0.8	0.40	0.17 - 0.40	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
$Chlorine_{Free}$ (ppm)	2020	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	2.10	0.00 - 2.10	Drinking water disinfection	NO

Note: [1]The highest detected LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average)

Turbidity

Substance	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Typical Sources	Violation
Turbidity [1]	2020	TT=1 NTU	0	0.13	n/a	Soil runoff	NO
		TT=percentage of samples <0.3 NTU		100%	n/a		

Notes: [1]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 the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Microbiological Contaminants

(Data presented in this table were from Systems that collected more than 40 Total coliform samples per month.)

Substance	Date Tested Positive	MCL	MCLG	TT Level 1 Assessment Trigger	Level Detected	Likely Sources	Violation
Total Coliform	08/2020 09/2020 12/2020	TT	n/a	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0.41%[1] 0.41%[1] 0.81%[2]	Naturally present in the environment	NO
E. coli	None	One Positive Sample*	0	n/a	0.0%	Human or animal fecal waste	NO

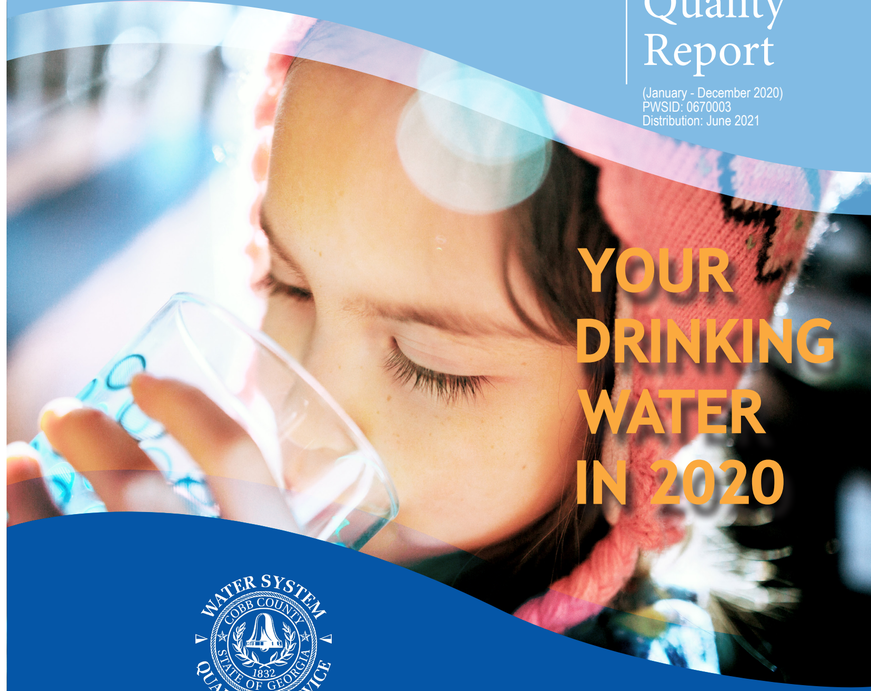
Notes: * A PWS will receive an E. coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result.
[1] one positive sample out of 243 samples tested during the month.
[2] Two positive samples out of 246 samples tested during the month.

The Cobb County Water System is pleased to report that your

DRINKING WATER has met or exceeds federal and state quality requirements.

2021 Annual Water Quality Report

(January - December 2020)
PWSID: 0670003
Distribution: June 2021



Cobb County Water System

This Consumer Confidence Report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water, including detailed results of state and federally mandated tests. In 2020 there were ***no EPA Safe Drinking Water Act violations to report.***