

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022

*Presented By*



Este informe contiene información muy  
importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo  
o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: GA0670005

## Dear Marietta Water Customer,

At Marietta Water, our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water at a reasonable cost. When it comes to water, one of the most critical aspects is to ensure that it meets all federal and state drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). To ensure the highest levels of quality, thousands of water quality tests were conducted during 2022. The results of those tests are listed here for your review, as well as details about the sources of your water and other pertinent information.

Sincerely,



Tim Marshall

Environmental Compliance Coordinator

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Marietta Water purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a public utility founded in 1951. The CCMWA treatment facilities are supplied from two separate surface water sources. The James E. Quarles Treatment Facility, built in 1952, withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River. The Quarles plant can treat a maximum of 86 million gallons of water a day. This water is distributed and utilized on the eastern side of Cobb County and Marietta. The Hugh A. Wyckoff Treatment Facility, originally built in the 1960s, withdraws water from Lake Allatoona, a U.S. Corps of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee, and south Bartow Counties. This human-made, multiuse lake is part of the Etowah River basin. The Wyckoff plant can also treat a maximum of 86 million gallons of water a day. This water is distributed and utilized on the north and west sides of Cobb County and Marietta. For further information, visit <https://ccmwa.org/>.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 or online at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or online at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Tim Marshall, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at (770) 794-5229. To reach the Service and Maintenance Department 24 hours a day, please call (770) 794-5230.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment was prepared for the CCMWA by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District in 2020. This report itemizes 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 that identify the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water and potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies and provides an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination. Individual source pollution involves actual facilities that have contaminants on-site that can pose a potential health risk if humans consume them. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by development and everyday activities that take place in residential, commercial, and rural areas; it is carried by rainfall to streams and lakes.

After evaluating these sources of pollution, the report found the Chattahoochee watershed susceptibility ranking to be medium-high and the Lake Allatoona watershed susceptibility ranking to be medium. You can view this source water assessment report at <https://www.ccmwa.org/reports>. The Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District Integrated Plan for Atlanta's Water Resources is available at <https://northgeorgiawater.org/plans-manuals/>.

## Community Participation

Marietta Water operates under the supervision of the Board of Lights and Water (BLW). The BLW was created through the state legislature. The seven board members include the mayor (as chair), a city council member appointed by the mayor, and five other members of the community appointed by the city council. The board meets the Monday before the second Wednesday of each month. Marietta Water maintains regular operating hours Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## Test Results

During the past year, we have taken many water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables show only those contaminants that were detected in the water.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	2.10	ND–2.10	No	Water additive used to control microbes		
Chlorite (ppm)	2022	1	0.8	0.38	0.021–0.38	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.93	0.12–0.93	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth		
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)		2022	60	NA	25.5 <sup>1</sup>	14.4–38	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate + Nitrite [as nitrogen, N] (ppm)		2022	10	10	0.59	0.29–0.59	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)		2022	TT <sup>2</sup>	NA	2.1	1.0–2.10	No	Naturally present in the environment; decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)		2022	80 <sup>3</sup>	NA	61 <sup>1</sup>	14–97.3	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection	
Turbidity <sup>4</sup> (NTU)		2022	TT	NA	0.12	ND–0.12	No	Soil runoff	
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)		2022	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff	

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community<sup>5</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	1.3	0.040	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0	2.0	1/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Aluminum (ppb)	2022	200 <sup>6</sup>	NA	52	ND–52	No	Commonly added as coagulants during water treatment to remove impurities, organic matter, and microorganisms	

<sup>1</sup>Highest detected locational running annual average.

<sup>2</sup>The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

<sup>3</sup>Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>4</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

<sup>5</sup>The next round of sampling is due in 2023.

<sup>6</sup>U.S. EPA has recommended a nonenforceable SMCL for aluminum based on aesthetics.



## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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 microbial 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**800  
TRILLION**

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**1**

The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

**99**

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**50**

The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

**71**

The percent of Earth's surface that is covered by water.

**330  
MILLION**

The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

**75**

The percent of the human brain that contains water.