

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023

Presented By

Marietta
Water



Our Commitment

Marietta Water's highest priority is to provide our community with dependable service and high-quality drinking water. In doing so, we are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. As you will see in this report, our water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. We think it tastes pretty good too!

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 surface water sources. The James E. Quarles Treatment Facility withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River. This water is distributed and utilized on the eastern side of Cobb County and Marietta. The Hugh A. Wyckoff Treatment Facility withdraws water from Lake Allatoona, a 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. This water is distributed and utilized on the north and west side of Cobb County and Marietta. For more information, visit 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. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

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 for 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, identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies, and provide 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 the report at ccmwa.org/reports. The Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District Integrated Plan for Atlanta's Water Resources is available at northgeorgiawater.org/plans-manuals.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 and removing lead pipes, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Mike Eckerstrom, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at (770) 794-5728. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Environmental Compliance Inspector Mike Eckerstrom at (770) 794-5728. To reach Marietta Water service and maintenance dispatch 24 hours a day, 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Community Participation

Marietta Water operates under the direction of the Board of Lights and Water (BLW), which meets each month. The BLW was created through the state legislature and has seven appointed board members. For more information about the board and its meeting schedule, visit mariettaga.gov/665/Board-of-Lights-Waterworks.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water. In 2023 CCMWA monitored for unregulated contaminants. These results can be found at ccmwa.org/reports/water-quality-reports.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

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)	2023	[4]	[4]	2.10	ND–2.10	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2023	1	0.8	0.33	0.021–0.33	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.78	0.50–0.78	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	30.8 ¹	13.1–42	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate + Nitrite [as nitrogen (N)] (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.67	0.28–0.67	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2023	TT	NA	2.63	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2023	TT	NA	2.1	0.9–2.10	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)	2023	80	NA	62.3 ¹	19.1–78	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.09	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	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 community³

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0	0.054	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	1.9	0/50	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

¹Highest detected locational running annual average.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

³The next round of sampling is due in 2025.

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).

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