

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER?//

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and picks up pollutants from the presence of human or animal activity. This polluted water continues to travel into rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells (all of which can be a source of 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 the water poses a health risk.

More information on contaminants may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Well informed customers

are our best allies!

## SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT LEAD IN MY 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. WSA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. 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 at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO WITH POLLUTING WATER?//

Even if you live miles away from a river, stream, or lake you may be contributing to water pollution without even knowing it. Pollutants coming from our homes and many other sources contribute to urban nonpoint pollution, a growing problem not just in Douglas County, but all across the state. A few examples of urban nonpoint pollution include pet waste, sediment, used motor oil, garden chemicals, paint, and chemicals we might use in our home for cleaning. These substances flow through the storm drain system into local streams and empty directly into the river, where they harm wildlife and aquatic life, ruin recreational areas, and threaten the quality of our water sources. Make sure you are disposing of urban nonpoint pollution correctly to keep our waterways safe and healthy.



## TABLE OF CONTAMINANTS

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected/ Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	0.85 mg/L (0.77 - 1.00 mg/L)	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	0	0.42 mg/L (0.42 mg/L)	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING					
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	90th Percentile Value/ Number of Samples Exceeding AL	Pass?	Major Sources
Lead (ug/L)	15**	0	2.8 ug/L (1 sample exceeded the AL)***	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ug/L)	1300**	1300	110 ug/L (0 samples exceeded the AL)***	Yes	
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (UNREGULATED)					
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average and Level Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Bromodichloromethane (ug/L)	NA	NA	4.0 ug/L	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (ug/L)	NA	NA	0.86 ug/L	Yes	
Chloroform (ug/L)	NA	NA	12.0 ug/L	Yes	
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (REGULATED)					
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Highest Rolling Average/ Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80*	NA	47.2 ug/L (18.0 - 58.0 ug/L)	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60*	NA	31.8 ug/L (13.2 - 30.0 ug/L)	Yes	
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Removal Ratio/ Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Organic Carbon	TT =>1.0	NA	1.21 (1.07 - 1.48)	Yes	Naturally present in environment; soil runoff
TURBIDITY					
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected/ Lowest % of Samples <= 0.30 NTU	Pass?	Major Sources
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	NA	0.10/100%	Yes	Soil runoff
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS					
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	=>5%+ positive samples during a monthly testing period	0 positive samples during a monthly testing period	0.92%	Yes	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment
E. coli	1	0	0	Yes	Human or animal fecal waste
FREE CHLORINE RESIDUAL					
Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Value	Pass?	Major Sources
Free Chlorine (mg/L)	4	NA	1.25 mg/L	Yes	Chemical added for disinfection

### Helpful Hints for Understanding the Consumer Confidence Report

- \* MCL based on rolling 4QRT average for each sample point
- \*\* Action Level (AL); the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- \*\*\* Samples collected June 1 through September 30, 2016.

**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 below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** one microgram per liter is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

**Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** one milligram per liter is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

**NA** Not Applicable  
**ND** None Detected

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water and an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Each month, 95% of turbidity samples must be less than or equal to 0.30 NTU. None may exceed 1 NTU.

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

While WSA tests for hundreds of contaminants in your water, only a few were detected in 2019 and none pose a significant health risk. WSA also monitors for unregulated parameters to assist the EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary. All laboratory testing results are available for public inspection. For more information, call (770) 949-7617. The results in these tables are from tests performed in the WSA and Georgia Environmental Protection Division's laboratories.

WSA has been supplying the community with the highest quality drinking water possible since 1986.



DOUGLASVILLE-DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

## 2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Annual Report on Drinking Water Quality in Douglas County

The Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (WSA) is pleased to report, once again,

### YOUR COMMUNITY'S DRINKING WATER

has met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and the USEPA.

THE AUTHORITY IS PROUD TO INFORM OUR CUSTOMERS THAT WE HAVE HAD ZERO WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION.

Douglas County's drinking water supply is surface water drawn from the Dog River Reservoir located in the western section of the county. It is then treated at the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant. This annual report, called the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), gives us the opportunity to provide you with a detailed accounting of all the monitoring data gathered from water quality testing during 2019 which went into producing your award-winning drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.  
Georgia Public Water System I.D. Number 0970000



WATER. ENVIRONMENT. COMMUNITY.

[WWW.DDCWSA.COM](http://WWW.DDCWSA.COM)

NOTICE: Although WSA's water meets all guidelines for quality, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer who are 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/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.

## What may be present in Source Water before it is treated...

- **Microbial Contaminants:** include viruses and bacteria which may come from agricultural livestock operations, septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants:** include 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:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive Contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.

- **Organic Chemical Contaminants:** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.



## TESTING THE QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public utility systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. WSA tests your drinking water continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tests are conducted for chemicals and disease-causing microorganisms (bacteria and protozoa) in compliance with requirements set by the EPA and EPD and under the supervision of State-certified operators and laboratory analysts. The parasites, cryptosporidium and giardia, are source water contaminants that are common in surface water. In this testing period, neither cryptosporidium nor giardia were found in the raw or treated water supply.

For more information on these contaminants and the diseases associated with them, visit [www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia) and [www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto).

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

WSA and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) completed a source water assessment to identify potential sources of surface water pollution to the Dog River Reservoir and to the Bear Creek Reservoir, a supplemental water supply source. Land use in these watersheds is primarily open/forest or agricultural crop land. In the Dog River watershed, which is 5.6% impervious surface, 57 potential individual sources of pollution were identified. In the Bear Creek watershed, which is 9.7% impervious, 8 pollution sources were identified.

To view the Source Water Assessment in its entirety, please visit [www.ddcwsa.com](http://www.ddcwsa.com). You may also request a physical copy of the report by calling (770) 920-3850.



## Are You Interested In Learning More About Water Resources In Douglas County?

Whether you are a student who needs assistance with a science project, a teacher who needs help facilitating a water-related lesson, or a community group (home owners associations, senior groups, churches, civic organizations, etc.) dealing with a specific water issue, WSA is here to help. Contact us at (770) 920-3850 or at [AskWSA@ddcwsa.com](mailto:AskWSA@ddcwsa.com) to get informed and involved with the world of water where you live, work, and play.

## FUTURE PLANNING

To meet the projected needs of our community and ensure that there is an adequate water supply to support the population and business growth Douglas County may experience, The Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority is committed to planning for the future in the present. WSA has begun laying the groundwork for an expansion of the Dog River reservoir, which is the drinking water source for the entire county. The project will raise the height of the reservoir, taking it from a capacity of 1.9 billion gallons to 6.5 billion gallons of water. The increased capacity will not only allow us to provide water service to more homes and businesses, it also gives us greater resiliency during times of drought.

Because of the great amount of planning and execution that goes into a project like this, the expansion of the Dog River reservoir may take upwards of 15 years to complete. While WSA hopes to finish sooner than that, this estimated time line is a good example of why planning for the future is so important to start sooner rather than later. While the reservoir meets the current needs of the community, projections from the Atlanta Regional Commission and the state of Georgia forecast that by 2066, the residential population of Douglas County will have almost doubled. This population projection is an illustration of the importance of work being done at this time to ensure the community is provided with award-winning water, wastewater, and stormwater services now and into the distant tomorrow.



## THE DOG RIVER RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

The 256-acre Dog River Reservoir holds 1.9 billion gallons of water—the County's principal drinking water source supply. The Recreational Complex was opened in 1994 to provide Douglas County residents with an opportunity to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the area. Because the Complex was built with water quality as the main priority, the forested areas, which naturally filter water, were preserved and the roadbeds were built with gravel to absorb motor oil and other urban runoff. Preserving water quality is also why public use of the Reservoir and Recreational Complex is restricted to Douglas County residents, property owners, business owners, and their guests.

Please visit our website, [www.ddcwsa.com](http://www.ddcwsa.com), for complex hours, activities, and more!



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WSA loves to spread the message of using water wisely to the Douglas County community. In 2019, the Authority hosted or participated in 64 unique public education and community outreach events. These outreach opportunities ranged from festivals like September Saturdays and the Taste of Douglasville to the Annual Sweep the Hooch River Cleanup, and dozens of other facility tours, career days, and touch-a-trucks thrown in for good measure! WSA helped spread water awareness to thousands of people this year by promoting conservation measures, tap water safety, stormwater stewardship, and more.

In the summer of 2017, WSA launched H2O-TO-GO, a unique educational program that provides ice cold water to the community at various events such as the Cultural Arts Center's Chili Cookoff and Main Street Douglasville's Food Truck Mondays. Through H2O-TO-GO, we have provided thousands of gallons of safe, clean water while educating the public on the benefits of tap water and the safety and reliability of Douglas County's water distribution system. Look for the water trailer and H2O-TO-GO next time your family is at a local event and remember to B.Y.O.B: Bring Your Own Bottle!

The public is always invited to attend the WSA Board Meetings

(2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.) and the Board Work Sessions (last Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.) Visit [www.ddcwsa.com](http://www.ddcwsa.com) for more information.

## The best way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source water clean and pollution free.

### BRUSH UP ON YOUR WATER IQ

Remember to turn the sink off while brushing your teeth. Letting the faucet run while you are brushing can waste several gallons of water each day.

### UPDATE YOUR HARDWARE

If you have older fixtures in your home, consider upgrading toilets, shower heads, and other water-using devices to high efficiency models.

### CUT YOUR SHOWER SHORT

Each minute you spend in the shower uses around 2.5 gallons of water. Set a showering time limit and stick to it!

### NO HALF LOADS

Try to avoid running your washing machine or dishwasher until you have a full load ready to clean.

If you would like more information about this report or the quality of your drinking water, please contact Water Operations Manager Steve Green at (770) 949-7617 or [sgreen@ddcwsa.com](mailto:sgreen@ddcwsa.com). General questions, comments, and concerns can be directed to [AskWSA@ddcwsa.com](mailto:AskWSA@ddcwsa.com).

### BE A LEAK DETECTIVE

Regularly check for and repair water leaks around the home. Even small leaks can waste hundreds of gallons of water each month.

### PUT RAIN TO WORK

Installing a rain barrel can help you conserve water outdoors. Use your rain barrel to water plants instead of the garden hose to keep your usage low even when the temperatures are high.

### PLANT WITH A PURPOSE

Choose native and drought-resistant plants when you landscape. They adapt well to the local environment and can flourish without daily watering.

## Conservation is the KEY!

Being mindful of water conservation is an easy way to be a good steward of water resources in our community.

