Lead Notice

Elevated levels of lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and building plumbing. The Department of Watershed Management is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in building plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Why Are There Contaminants in Drinking Water?

As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and radioactive material can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Drinking water originates from surface water (rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, or reservoirs) and groundwater (springs and wells). Bottled water is generally from springs, wells, and public water systems. DeKalb County gets all of its water from a surface water source, the Chattahoochee River.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and the EPD set regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water supplied by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. In cases where contaminants cannot be readily measured, the EPA sets treatment techniques known to reduce the amounts of contaminants to acceptable levels. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of these 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 or at http://epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What is FOG?

FOG is Fats, Oils and Greases. It is composed of the animal and vegetable fats and oils that are used to cook and prepare food.

Where does FOG come from?

• Meat Fat
• Lard
• Cooking Oil
• Shortening
• Baking Goods
• Food Scraps
• Dairy Products
• Butter and Margarine
• Sauces

What can I do to help?

Here are three simple practices to help keep FOG out of our pipes and sewers:

1. **Pour** cooled fats, oils or grease into a sealable container and throw it in the trash. Do not pour down the sink or toilet.
2. **Scrape** plates and cookware before washing. Do not throw scraps of any kind down the sink. Instead, place them in waste containers or garbage bags.
3. **Wipe** excess grease from all plates, pots, pans, utensils and surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Throw the greasy paper towels away.

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**Important Phone Numbers**

- Billing/Water Cutoff (8:30 am – 5 pm) 404 - 378 - 4475
- Emergency Repair – 24 hours 770 - 270 - 6243
- Telecommunications Device for the Deaf 404 - 294 - 2677
- Drinking Water Questions/Information 770 - 391 - 6047
Understanding the Terms in this Table

Understanding the Water Quality Data

The table to the right lists all the regulated drinking water substances that were detected in the DeKalb County Water System during the 2013 calendar year. The presence of these substances in the water does not indicate that the water poses a health risk. In addition to the parameters listed, your drinking water was also tested regularly for other parameters, including approximately 128 organic chemicals and 17 inorganic compounds. DeKalb County also conducts 457 daily production control tests, 365 days a year.

Delcabb County 2013 Water Quality Data

This report includes data collected between 1 Jan and 31 Dec, 2013 by DeKalb County Water Resources Management.

*Value represents the actual calculated quarterly average.
*Value represents the annual average.
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What May be Present in Drinking Water Before it’s Treated

Microbial contaminants: includes viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plant and septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Radioactive contaminants: includes radon and radioactive substances. Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that may enter drinking water from the soil and water treatment plant.

Organic chemicals: includes synthetic and volatile chemicals (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production), and many other substances.

Testing the Quality of Drinking Water

DeKalb County tests its water in full compliance with requirements set by the State Environmental Protection Division and the EPD. Tests are performed by, or under the direct supervision of State-certified operators or laboratories, under control and at the microorganisms of concern in surface waters is protection. Cryptosporidium, which has never been detected in the DeKalb County drinking water supply. The County is working hard to ensure that this protozoan never enters the drinking water system. Infection of this protozoan can cause symptoms that include diarrhea, nausea, and/or stomach cramps. DeKalb County regularly monitors your drinking water for Cryptosporidium.

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The Source of DeKalb’s Water

Delcabb County’s water supply is located on the Chattahoochee River, which is located north of DeKalb County and upstream from City of Atlanta Water Treatment Plant and then distributed to DeKalb County customers. DeKalb County and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) have completed a source water assessment identifying potential sources of pollution to the Chattahoochee River, your drinking water source. The results of this study may be found on the ARC’s website at www.atlantaregional.comswap or you can request information by mail from: Atlanta Regional Commission, Environmental Planning Division, 40 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303.

The Purpose of this Report

The U.S. Congress enacted the Safe Drinking Act in 1996, requiring public water systems to send an annual CCR to all of their customers. The purpose of this report is to send annual CCRs to all of their customers. The DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management supports this effort and is proud to present this CCR. This report is in compliance with the EPA’s National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Information on these regulations is available on the EPA’s drinking water website at www.epa.gov/safewater, or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The Consumer Confidence Report

Delcabb County Department of Watershed Management provides its customers with high quality, safe drinking water that surpasses the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements. Delcabb County has consistently produced superior quality drinking water. This 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), provides a detailed account of all the monitoring data gathered from water quality testing during 2013. We are proud to provide the information to enable informed drinking water decisions that may affect the quality of drinking water is encouraged and welcomed. For questions about this report and the quality of DeKalb County drinking water, please call Jody Shoemaker (Senior Chemist, Scott Candler Water Treatment Plant) at 770-391-6047 or visit our website at www.dekalbcountyga.gov.

For more information about DeKalb Division (EPD) requirements. Delcabb County has consistently produced superior high quality, safe drinking water that surpasses the United States Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Testing for these water parameters is required by law. Delcabb County drinking water is tested as often as hourly, 24 hours a day, at the water treatment plant and five days a week throughout the water distribution system.

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