Why Are There Contaminants in Drinking Water?

As water travels over the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, radioactive material, and 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 waters are 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 proven 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.

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.

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 1-800-426-4791 or at http://epa.gov/safewater/lead.

What is FOG?

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

NO FOG. NO CLOG. JUST LET IT FLOW™
KEEP FATS OILS AND GREASE OUT OF OUR SEWERS

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.

Join us for DeKalb County Board of Commissioners Meetings

– Regular Meetings second & fourth Tuesdays (broadcast live on Channel 23) @ 9 am.
– Committee meetings first & third Tuesdays.

Watch the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Re-Broadcast

– Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 am & 7 pm.

Copies of this Report

To obtain a copy of this report, please visit our website: www.dekalbwatershed.com
Para obtener una copia de este reporte en Español, por favor visite: www.dekalbwatershed.com

Important Phone Numbers

Billing/Water Cutoff (8:30 am – 5 pm)
404 - 378 - 4475

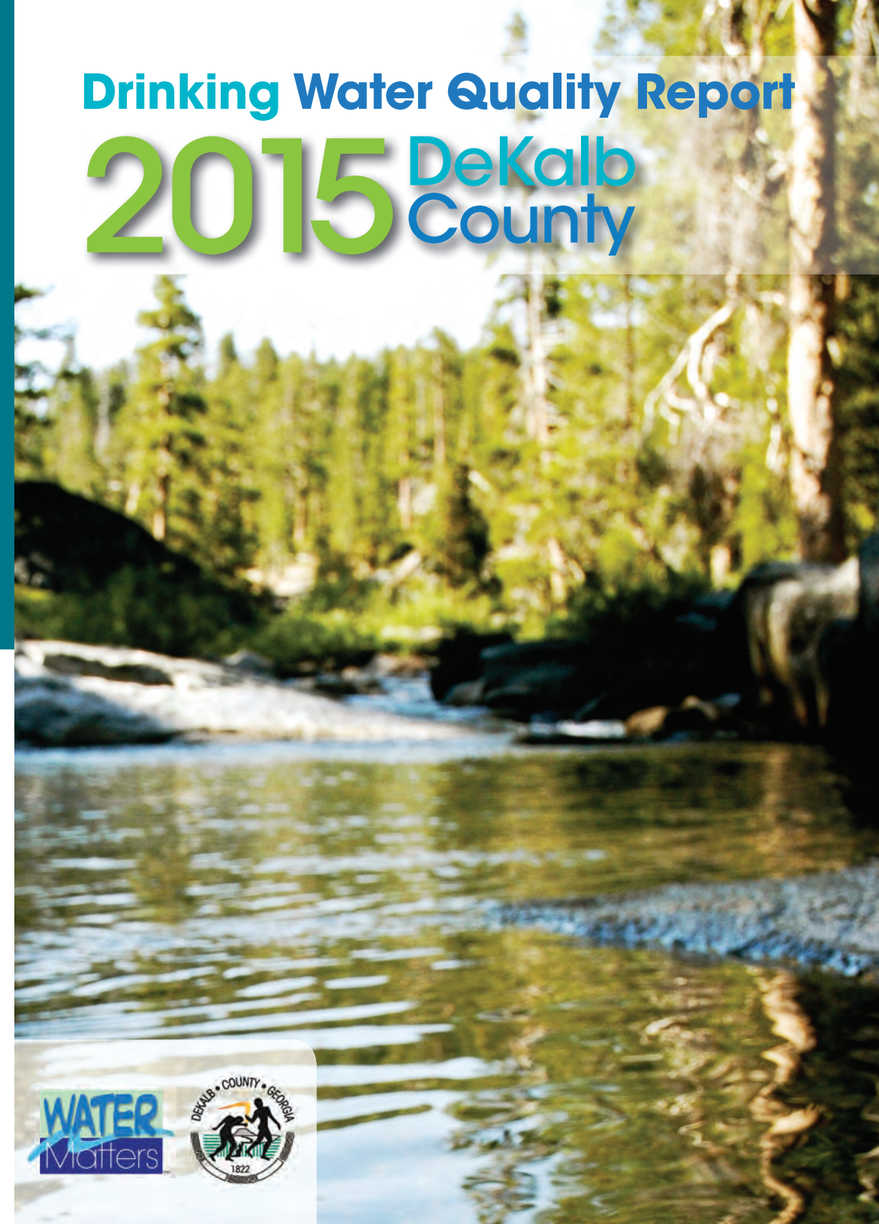
Emergency Repair – 24 hours
770 - 270 - 6243

FOG Questions/Information
404 - 687 - 7150

Drinking Water Questions/Information
770 - 391 - 6047

Drinking Water Quality Report

2015 DeKalb County



WATER Matters

DEKALB • COUNTY • GEORGIA 1822

The Consumer Confidence Report

DeKalb 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 State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements. DeKalb County has consistently produced superior quality drinking water. This 2015 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 2014. We are proud to provide the enclosed information.

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.dekalbwatershed.com**. Public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of drinking water is encouraged and welcomed. The public is invited to attend DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meetings (the schedule is listed on the back of this report). For more information about DeKalb County, please visit the County's website at **www.dekalbcountyga.gov.**

The Purpose of this Report

The U.S. Congress revised the Safe Drinking Act in 1996, requiring public water systems 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 Source of DeKalb's Water

DeKalb County's water supply is located on the Chattahoochee River, which is located north of DeKalb County and upstream from the City of Atlanta. Water is treated at the Scott Candler 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 assessment can be found on the ARC's website at www.atlantaregional.com/swap or you can request information by mail from: Atlanta Regional Commission, Environmental Planning Division, 40 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303.

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 2014 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 25 inorganic chemicals. DeKalb County also conducts 457 daily production control tests, 365 days a year.

Understanding the Terms in this Table

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

BDL Below Detection Limit.

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment available.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant (such as chlorine) 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.

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of turbidity.

ppm Parts per million: One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

ppb Parts per billion: One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

P/A Presence/Absence: Presence/Absence of total coliform; absence of less than 1 colony forming unit per 100 milliliters of drinking water.

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

Other N/A – not applicable; < - less than; ≥ - greater than or equal to.

DeKalb County 2014 *Water Quality Data*

Regulated Chemicals Tested and Detected

		DeKalb County Water				
Chemical	Units	Result[a]	Range of Detections	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation
Fluoride	ppm	0.8	0.1 to 1.3	4.0	4.0	NO
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	0.7	0.4 to 1.0	10	10	NO
Chlorine, Free	ppm	1.62	0.83 to 2.47	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	NO
Chlorine, Total	ppm	1.73	0.94 to 2.56	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	NO
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppb	28	11.10 to 48	80	N/A	NO
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	8	4 to 16	60	N/A	NO

2012 Copper and Lead Test Results from Consumer's Tap

		DeKalb County Water					
Chemical	Units	90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	Range of Detections	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation
Copper	ppm	0.0	0	0 to 0.025	AL = 1.3	AL= 1.3	NO
Lead	ppb	2.5	1	0 to 22	AL = 15	Zero	NO

Other Regulated Parameters and Micro-oganisms

		DeKalb County Water				
Parameter	Units	Result[a]	Range of Detections	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation
Turbidity (NTU)	NTU	0.70[b]	N/A	TT = 1NTU	N/A	NO
		100.00%	N/A	TT = percentage of readings <0.3 NTU	N/A	NO
Total Organic carbon (TOC)	RR	1.15[d]	1.00 to 1.33	TT = TOC removal ratio (RR) ≥1[c]	N/A	NO
Total Coliforms	P/A	0.22% per month	BDL to 0.74%	Not more than 5% per month	Zero	NO

This report includes data collected between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014 by DeKalb County Watershed Management.

[a]Value represents the annual average unless otherwise noted.

[b]Value represents the highest level detected.

[c]TT requires a removal ratio (RR) of 1.0 or higher, calculated quarterly as a running annual average.

[d]Value represents the lowest removal ratio achieved.

What May be Present in Drinking Water Before it's Treated

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

Inorganic contaminants: includes salts and metals, naturally occurring or from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil/gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides: may come from agriculture, urban stormwater run-off, and residential use.

Organic chemicals: includes synthetic and volatile chemicals (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off, and septic systems).

Radioactive contaminants: naturally occurring or a result of oil/gas production and mining activities.

Testing the Quality of Drinking Water

Tap water is tested for various water quality parameters to ensure that the water is safe for people to drink. These parameters are selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Testing for these water parameters is required by law. DeKalb 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.

DeKalb County tests its water in full compliance with requirements set by the EPA and the EPD. Tests are performed by, or under, the direct supervision of State-certified operators or laboratory analysts. One of the microorganisms of concern in surface waters is the protozoan, cryptosporidium, which has never been detected in the DeKalb County drinking water system. The County is working hard to ensure that this protozoan never enters the drinking water system. Ingestion of this protozoan may cause symptoms that include diarrhea, nausea, and/or stomach cramps. DeKalb County regularly monitors your drinking water for cryptosporidium.