

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 other 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. (The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish safe limits for contaminants in bottled water).

DeKalb County gets its water from a surface water source, the Chattahoochee River. While some contaminants in drinking water are beneficial, the Safe Drinking Water Act, administered by the EPA and the EPD, set regulations to limit certain contaminants in water supplied by public water systems. To monitor the levels of substances in our drinking water, over 250 water samples are collected each month throughout the DeKalb County distribution system and tested to ensure compliance.

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation Tips

DeKalb County is currently in a Level 2 drought status. Even with the recent rainfall, the drought status is severe and our water source (The Chattahoochee River fed from Lake Lanier) has not recovered. Residents are urged to continue complying with the state mandated restrictions. Here are some helpful conservation tips:

- Check and repair leaks inside and outside the home.
- Shorten showers and turn off water when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Fill dishwashers and washing machines. Make sure there is a full load every time.
- Replace older toilets and shower heads with high efficiency models. If your home was built before 1993, you may qualify for a toilet rebate.
- Choose efficient appliances. Look for EPA WaterSense and ENERGY STAR labeled products when shopping for new appliances and fixtures.
- Scrape dishes before washing them. Avoid using the garbage disposal. It wastes a lot of water and can contribute to pipe clogs.

Information on Georgia's current drought conditions and water conservation is available on the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's website at: www.epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation.

To obtain a copy of this report, please visit our website: www.dekalbwatershed.com
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FOG Questions/Information
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Drinking Water Questions/Information
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2017

DeKalbCounty

Drinking WATER Quality Report



PWSID # GA0890001

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 2017 Drinking Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), provides a detailed account of the monitoring data gathered from water quality testing during 2016.

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.

For questions about this report and the quality of DeKalb County drinking water, please call Jody Shoemaker (Laboratory Manager, 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.

For more information about DeKalb County, please visit the County’s website at www.dekalbcountyga.gov.

The Source of DeKalb’s Water

DeKalb County’s water intake, or water source, is located on the Chattahoochee River, 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.

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 Water Quality Data table lists the regulated drinking water substances that were detected in the DeKalb County Water System during the 2016 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 collects and tests over 250 samples per month from locations throughout the distribution system. Additionally, DeKalb County also conducts 45 daily production control tests, 365 days a year.

| DeKalb County 2016 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 | 0.3 to 1.5 | 4.0 | 4.0 | NO |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | ppm | 0.8 | 0.5 to 1.0 | 10 | 10 | NO |
| Chlorine, Free | ppm | 1.61 | 1.20 to 1.93 | MRDL = 4 | MRDL = 4 | NO |
| Chlorine, Total | ppm | 1.72 | 1.38 to 2.13 | MRDL = 4 | MRDL = 4 | NO |
| Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) | ppb | 43 | 16 to 55 | 80 | N/A | NO |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | ppb | 7 | 3 to 16 | 60 | N/A | NO |

| 2015 Copper and Lead Test Results from Consumer’s Tap* | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | | DeKalb County Water | | | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Ideal Goals (MCLG) | Violation |
| Chemical | Units | 90th Percentile | Number of Sites Exceeding AL | Range of Detections | | | |
| Copper | ppm | 0.0 | 0 | 0 to 0.037 | AL = 1.3 | AL = 1.3 | NO |
| Lead | ppb | 4.2 | 1 | 0 to 21 | AL = 15 | Zero | NO |

| Other Regulated Parameters and Micro-organisms | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | | DeKalb County Water | | Highest Level Allowed (MCL) | Ideal Goals (MCLG) | Violation |
| Parameter | Units | Result ^a | Range of Detections | | | |
| Turbidity (NTU) | NTU | 0.17 ^b | N/A | TT = 1 NTU | N/A | NO |
| | | 100.00% | N/A | TT = percentage of readings <0.3 NTU | N/A | NO |
| Total Organic Carbon (TOC) | RR | 1.27 | 1.00 to 1.54 | TT = TOC 1.0 | N/A | NO |
| Total Coliforms | P/A | 0.09% per month | BDL to 0.39% | Not more than 5% per month | Zero | NO |

This report includes data collected between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2016 by DeKalb County Watershed Management.

^aValue represents the annual average unless otherwise noted.

^bValue represents the highest level detected.

^cTT requires a removal ratio (RR) of 1.0 or higher, calculated quarterly as a running annual average.

Understanding the terms in this table

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

BDL - Below Detection Limit: The value of a result is below the smallest amount of a substance that a method can reliably distinguish from zero.

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 effective treatment.

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 (such as chlorine) allowed in drinking water. 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 is measured as less than 1 colony forming unit per 100 milliliters of drinking water.

RR - Removal Ratio: The ratio of total organic carbon removed from raw 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.

*The EPD mandates tri-annual copper & lead testing for the distribution system. This round of sampling was conducted in 2015 with the next round due in 2018. These tests are in addition to routine testing performed by DeKalb County.

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, 7 days a week 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 and laboratory analysts.



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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil/gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides: may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.

Organic chemicals: includes synthetic and volatile chemicals may come from by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

One of the microorganisms of concern in surface waters is the cryptosporidium, a protozoan which has never been detected in the DeKalb County drinking water system. The county is diligently working 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.

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