

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. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

While some contaminants are beneficial, the EPA and the EPD under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act set regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water supplied by public water systems to ensure safe drinking water. In addition, 250 water samples are taken each month and tested throughout the DeKalb County distribution system.

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.

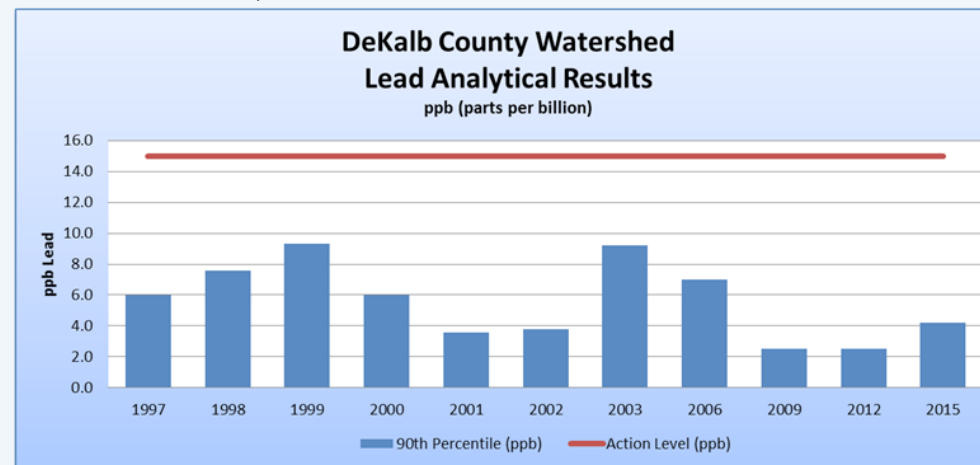
Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or at <http://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DeKalb County Assures Customers of Water Quality EPD Lead Tests in Compliance

The Department of Watershed Management (DWM) provides its customers with high quality, safe drinking water that surpasses the United States Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements.

Every three years the EPD runs the analysis of the county's water in a certified laboratory to assure an extra level of protection and compliance by its independent analysis. In 2015, the Georgia EPD Lab ran 50 water samples county wide and DeKalb County was found to meet or exceed the Federal compliance lead levels.

The recent water quality crisis in the country underscores DWM's commitment to protect families served in DeKalb County.



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

Join us for DeKalb County Board of Commissioners Meetings

- Regular meetings @ 9 a.m., broadcast live on Comcast Channel 23 or live-streamed at www.dekalbcountyga.gov/dctv.

Watch the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Re-Broadcast

- Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

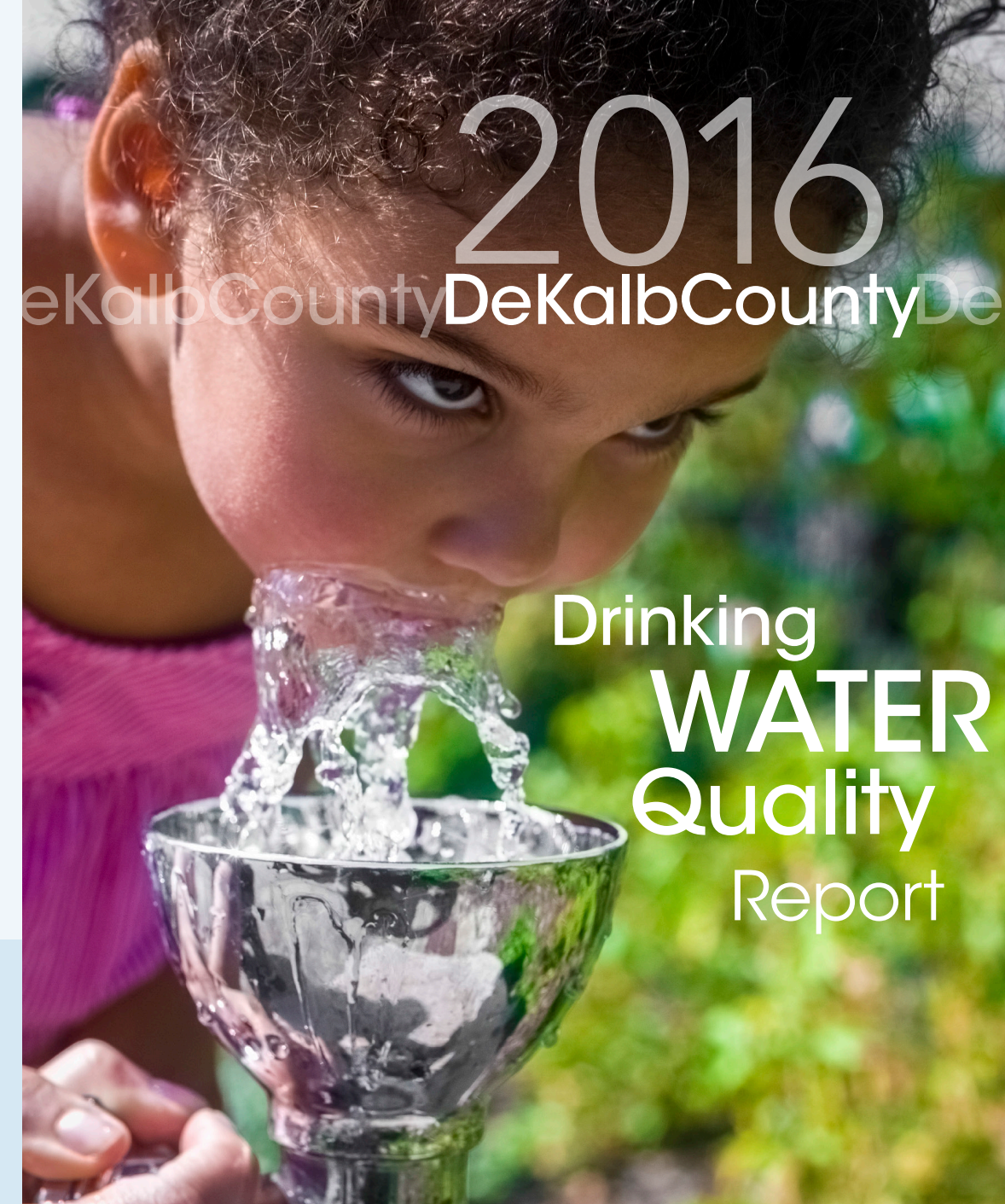
Billing/Water Cutoff (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
404 - 378 - 4475

Emergency Repair – 24 hours
770 - 270 - 6243

FOG Questions/Information
404 - 687 - 7150

Drinking Water Questions/Information
770 - 391 - 6047

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2016

DeKalb County DeKalb County DeKalb County

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 2016 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 2015. 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 \[www.epa.gov/safewater\]\(http://www.epa.gov/safewater\), 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 Water Quality Data table lists all the regulated drinking water substances that were detected in the DeKalb County Water System during the 2015 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 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.

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 2015 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 1.7	4.0	4.0	NO
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	0.7	0.6 to 0.09	10	10	NO
Chlorine, Free	ppm	1.59	1.100 to 1.98	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	NO
Chlorine, Total	ppm	1.68	1.27 to 2.55	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	NO
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppb	31	12 to 55	80	N/A	NO
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	8	4 to 19	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	NO
Lead	ppb	4.2	1	0 to 21	AL = 15	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	0.18 100.00%	N/A N/A	TT = 1NTU TT = percentage of readings <0.3 NTU	N/A N/A	NO 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	0.43% per month	BDL to 1.57%	Not more than 5% per month	Zero	NO

This report includes data collected between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2015 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.

dValue 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.

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 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.

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.

