

2008 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report

- ✓ exceeds standards
- ✓ continuously tested
- ✓ safe to drink

Austell Public Works Water Division

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Lake Allatoona and the Chattahoochee River Provides Excellent Water Sources

The City of Austell receives its water supply from Lake Allatoona and the Chattahoochee River. Both are located entirely in Georgia. The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, from where our water is purchased, has two plants that treat as much as 136 million gallons per day of drinking water fed from these two bodies of water. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from Lake Allatoona, a United States Corp of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee, and Bartow counties. The Quarles Treatment Division receives its water from the Chattahoochee River. After treatment, the finished water is fed to the Austell's Water Systems' distribution lines and finally delivered to your home or business.



Lead in Your Drinking Water



Water delivered to your home or business is virtually lead-free when it is delivered from the treatment facility, but water can absorb lead from solder, fixtures, and pipes found in the plumbing of some buildings or homes. Mandated at-the-tap lead monitoring is conducted at various households around the City. Based on the results of three homes in 2007, the City of Austell met the established standard Lead Action Level.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at the customer's home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in their home's water. They may wish to have their water tested. In order to ensure the lowest possible lead levels, the home's tap should be flushed for 30 seconds to two minutes before using the 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. The City of Austell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using 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 <http://www.epa.gov/stafewater/lead>.

Residents who are interested in participating in the City's lead and copper program, and who meet the following criteria, are encouraged to contact Austell Public Works at (770) 944-4325.

Criteria: Home must have been constructed between 1982 and 1986 and contain copper lines that have not been modified.

What's in Source Water?

Sources of drinking water worldwide (both tap and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves natural-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ... IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

The table below shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that was detected in the water, even the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the major sources of such contaminants, and footnotes explaining the finding.

AL - Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

BDL - Below Detection Limits

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant which in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A - Not Applicable

N/D - Not Detected

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: The amount of light disbursed as it passes through a column of water.

ppb - parts per billion ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppm - parts per million or milligrams

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

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride ¹	2/3/08	ppm	4	4	0.97	0.0 - 0.97	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Lead ²	07/15/08	ppb	AL = 15	0	9.7	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Copper ³	09/03/08	ppb	AL = 1.3	0	0.030	N/A	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Nitrate/Nitrite ⁴	04/01/07	ppm	10	10	1.2	0.48 - 1.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	No

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS, AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS

Contaminants	Test Date	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Total Trihalomethanes	11/05/08	ppb	80	0	36.0	15.0 - 68.5 ⁵	By-products of drinking water disinfection.	No
Total Haloacetic Acids	08/06/08	ppb	60	0	22.0	8.5 - 34.3 ⁵	By-products of drinking water disinfection.	No
Total Organic Carbon	04/07/08	ppm	TT	N/A	2.0	1.0 - 2.0	Decay of organic matter in the water.	No
Chlorite	12/03/08	ppm	1.0	0.8	0.42	<0.01 - 0.42	By-products of drinking water disinfection.	No
Chlorine - Free	05/21/08	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2.12	BDL ⁶ = 1.95	Drinking water disinfectant.	No

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
TT = 1 NTU	0	0.23	N/A	04/01/08	No	Soil runoff
TT = percentage of samples < 0.3	0	100%	N/A	04/01/08	No	Soil runoff

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Average Level Detected	Violation
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5% positive samples during a monthly sampling period	0% positive samples during a monthly sampling period	0.0%	0.0%	No
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (<i>E. coli</i>) Bacteria	< 5% positive samples during a monthly sampling period	0% positive samples during a monthly sampling period	0.0%	0.0%	No

¹Fluoride is added to water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.

^{2,3}Of the fifty sites tested, none exceeded the Action Level. The next round of test is due in 2008.

⁴Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.

⁵This contaminant is regulated by the average concentration over a period of a year.

⁶Detection Limit for chlorine is 0.05 mg/L. Disinfection was confirmed by heterotrophic plate count. This is a method that measure total bacteria in a sample. The results was within acceptable limits.

Important Health Information



Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer 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 about drinking water from their healthcare provider(s). More information about the United States Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* or other microbial contaminants, and potential health effect can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ... IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Additional Health Information

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amount of contaminants. The presence of 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- a. Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- b. Inorganic contaminants such as 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.
- c. Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- d. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic (man-made) and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Source Water Assessment Project

A source water assessment is a study and report, unique to each water system that provides basic information used to provide drinking water. Local utilities and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of surface water pollution to your drinking water supply. This information can help communities understand the potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

Who Is Involved in these Assessments?

The 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act brought about new pollution prevention and protection measures that help ensure clean and safe drinking water. As a result, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has set a national goal that by 2005, the majority of the population is to receive its drinking water from systems with Source Water Protection Plans in place. As a first step, the United States Environmental Protection Agency requires all states to perform Source Water Assessments for each drinking water intake. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division contracted with the Atlanta Regional Commission to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of Georgia's Source Water Assessment Plan for twenty-eight metro Atlanta public water intakes.

The Source Water Assessments:

- Identify the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water,
- Identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies, and
- Provide an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

What is Water Pollution?

Water pollution is caused when substances such as chemicals, pathogens, sediment, and metals are released into the water. There are two types of water pollution - individual source and non-point source pollution.

Individual source pollution involves actual facilities, which have contaminants on site, which can pose a potential health risk if humans consume those contaminants.

Non-point source pollution is caused by development and everyday activities that take place in residential, commercial, and rural areas and is carried by rainfall to streams and lakes.

Each time it rains, the runoff from rooftops, lawns, streets, and parking lots pick up debris such as dust and dirt, oil and other vehicle leaks, pet waste, lawn pesticides and fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, and paint and other household products.

To learn more about the Source Water Assessment Project, you may visit the Atlanta Regional Commission's web site at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/swap/>. You may also contact Austell Public Works at (770) 944-4325 to obtain a copy of the Source Water Assessment Project report.

Environmental Friendly Landscaping/Lawn Tips

- 1 Plant natural vegetation to control erosion.
- 2 Test soil first before applying fertilizers.
- 3 Identify the bugs in your yard. Most are beneficial.
- 4 Direct rainwater from downspouts away from pavement onto your lawn.
- 5 Check the weather forecast for predicted rain and do not apply fertilizer or pesticides before or directly after a rain. (You will wash pollutants and \$\$\$ down the drain!)
- 6 Sweep up dirt and debris rather than hosing away with water.
- 7 Compost and recycle yard waste.
- 8 Clean up pet waste.
- 9 Leave native vegetation along streams
- 10 Plant native vegetation in your yard.



Water Conservation

In or out of every drought, every resident can save hundreds of gallons of water every week by following these water-saving tips.

Bathroom

- Do take short showers and save five to seven gallons a minute.
- Do fill the tub halfway and save ten to fifteen gallons.
- Do install water-saving toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators. Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet if you cannot switch to a low flow toilet.
- Do not run the water while shaving, brushing your teeth, or washing your hands. Faucets use two to three gallons per minute.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket, and do not flush it unnecessarily.

Kitchen and Laundry

- Do run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full.
- Do install faucet aerators.
- Do not let the water run while washing dishes. Kitchen faucets use two to three gallons per minute. Filling a basin only takes ten gallons to wash and rinse.
- Do not run the water to make it cold. Have it chilled in the refrigerator, ready to drink.

Everywhere

- Do repair leaky faucets and turn taps off tightly. A slow drip wastes fifteen to twenty gallons each day.
- Do not open fire hydrants.

Outdoors

- Do use a self-closing nozzle on your hose.
- Do not wash your sidewalk - sweep it clean.
- Do not over water your lawn or plants.

FREE WATER CONSERVATION RETROFIT KITS AVAILABLE

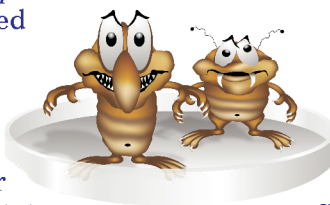
Kit consists of the following: low-flow showerhead, kitchen swivel aerator, low-flow faucet aerator, leak detection dye tablets, and flow meter bag.

Contact Austell Public Works at (770) 944-4325.

Make Every  Count

Unregulated Contaminants

The City of Austell participated in a major drinking water quality testing program called the Supplemental Information Collection Rule (SICR). Two of the contaminants tested for under this rule are the parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* which have caused outbreaks of intestinal disease in the United States and abroad. These parasites are common in surface water and very difficult to kill and even a well-run water system may contact some live oocysts (in the case of *Cryptosporidium*) or cysts (in the case of *Giardia*). The United States Environmental Protection Agency is working to resolve several scientific issues that will allow it to set *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* safety standards.



Our testing performed at the raw (untreated) water intake on the Chattahoochee River, located immediately north of Johnson Ferry Road crossing, revealed the presence of *Cryptosporidium* and/or *Giardia* in several months' samples. **These organisms were detected in the water prior to treatment.** Following is a table detailing these occurrences. Our treatment technique is designed and optimized to remove these contaminants, therefore no precaution about our drinking water is currently needed for the general public. See advice about special populations and a source for further information in the Important Health Information section.

Date	Oocysts Detected Per10/L	Date	Cysts Detected Per10/L
06/16/99; 06/29/99; 09/28/99	01	09/28/99	19
11/08/99	02	10/12/99	09
		10/25/99; 11/08/99	10
		11/22/99	06

During the same monitoring periods at the Chattahoochee River, the water at Lake Allatoona was tested. No oocysts or cysts were detected.

In order to comply with an upcoming federal regulation, Cobb County Marietta Water Authority has been monitoring *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in raw water from both its sources, the Chattahoochee River and Lake Allatoona. The following are results of the monitoring during 2005. **These organisms were detected in the water prior to treatment.** All of these occurrences were at the Chattahoochee River intake.

Date	Oocysts Detected Per10/L
01/14/05	02
02/14/05	01

About this Report

The Austell Water System is committed to providing its customers with reliable service and safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the state and federal standards. The Austell Water System serves over 3,000 customers by maintaining its distribution system and distributing an average of one million gallons of water daily.

This is an annual water report on the water delivered by the Austell Water System and is in accordance with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart O, of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

For additional information regarding this report, please contact:

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Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available on the Internet at <http://www.drinktap.org/>.

