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Annual Water Quality Report
(January - December 2017)
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Cobb County Water System
Water Quality Report
660 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060-3113



COBB COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

www.cobbwater.org



annual -water quality report

WHY THIS REPORT?

The Cobb County Water System (CCWS) is committed to delivering to you, our customer, water that meets or exceeds federal and state quality requirements. We are pleased that this 2018 Water Quality Report shows we are doing that. Our priority is to deliver safe water to your home or business each day. We make significant efforts to protect our water resources for both existing needs and future generations.

The following pages provide the summary results of a continuous drinking water testing program. This report covers the calendar year 2017. Important definitions are provided to help clarify the information further. The current CCWS's Water Quality Report is also posted on our website at <https://cobbcounty.org/waterqualityreport>. For additional information contact our Customer Service Division at 770.419.6200.

The bottom line is we provide safe, quality drinking water to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days each year, because we know that it is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

You are a customer of the CCWS, an agency of Cobb County government. We distribute treated water to more than 182,000 customer accounts representing about 753,800 residents in the CCWS's service area, and treat collected wastewater in a manner safe for your families and the environment.

The Water System purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a utility providing treated drinking water on a wholesale basis to cities and counties in the region. CCMWA treats drinking water using state-of-the-art equipment and ensures water quality through continued monitoring and testing.

The CCMWA was created by the Georgia Legislature in 1951 for the purpose of providing potable water to Cobb County. The CCMWA has two surface water sources supplying two treatment facilities. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from Lake Allatoona, a Corps of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee and south Bartow counties. The Quarles Treatment Division receives water from the Chattahoochee River. After treatment at these plants, water is transported to various areas within the County where it is fed into CCWS distribution lines and finally to your home or business.

The Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination of your drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

A Source Water Assessment is a study and report which provides the following:

1. Delineation of the water supply watershed for each drinking water intake,
2. Development of an inventory of potential sources of contamination,
3. Determination of the susceptibility of drinking water sources to identified potential sources of contamination, and
4. Increasing the public involvement in and awareness of drinking water watershed concerns.

For more information on this project visit the Source Water Assessment website at

<http://www.atlantaregional.org> or you can request information by mail from the ARC:

Attn: Source Water Assessment
Environmental Planning Division
Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree Street, NE
International Tower Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

HOW IS THE WATER TREATED?

The process begins by pumping untreated water from the Chattahoochee River or Lake Allatoona into sedimentation basins where large particles are removed and the water is disinfected.

The water is then directed to a process called flocculation which is a gentle mixing of the water with a coagulant. This allows particles, called *floc*, to form and settle, clarifying the water. Next, the water is put through a filtration system where water flows through sand filters trapping even smaller particles.

After filtration, chemicals are added for final disinfection. Except for chlorine and fluoride, chemicals used in the treatment process are removed before the finished water is distributed to you.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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 storm water 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 agriculture, storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- e) **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established treatment methods to reduce contaminants to levels that protect human health. CCMWA's laboratory continuously monitors water quality to be sure it is properly treated to EPA standards. In addition, up to 223 water samples throughout the CCWS distribution system are taken each month and tested. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some 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 EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791*.

WHAT IS CRYPTOSPORIDIUM?

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks; however, immuno-compromised individuals, infants, small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. The monitoring of our source water performed in 2013 had **no detection** of cryptosporidium.

LEAD IN 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 CCWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. The water has been treated to minimize leaching of such materials. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 or more seconds before using cold tap water for drinking, preparation, 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

HEALTH RELATED CONCERNS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791*.

HOW TO READ THE DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS TABLE

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every contaminant regulated by EPA that was detected in the water, even in the minutest 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 usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our finding, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL, MCLG, AL, and TT are important.

DEFINITIONS

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

BDL – Below detection limits.

EC+ – E. coli-positive.

LRAA – Locational Running Annual Average

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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 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.

n/a – not applicable.

n/d – not detected.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Measures the cloudiness of water

ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L), i.e., penny in \$10,000,000.

ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L), i.e., one penny in \$10,000.

PWS – Public water system.

RTCR – Revised total coliform rule.

TC+ – Total coliform-positive.

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

COBB WATER'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDE

- Backflow Prevention | cobbcounty.org/backflow 770.528.3343
- CMOM Program | cobbcounty.org/cmom 770.419.6321
- Grease Management | cobbcounty.org/greasemanagement 770.419.6430
- Partners in Education | cobbcounty.org/partners-in-edu 770.419.6295
- Stormwater Management | cobbcounty.org/stormwater 770.419.6435
- Stream Monitoring | cobbcounty.org/streammonitoring 770.528.2448 | 8212
- Water Efficiency | cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency 770.419.6244
- Watershed Stewardship | cobbstreams.org 770.528.1482

To learn more about CCWS and these programs, please visit the above websites.

Drinking Water Analysis Table

(The data presented in this report are furnished by the CCMWA and are from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.)

EPA Regulated Inorganic Substances or Contaminants

Substance (Unit)	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride ¹ (ppm)	2017	4	4	0.95	0.54 – 0.95	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
Lead ² (ppb)	2017	AL=15	0	2.1	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper ³ (ppm)	2017	AL=1.3	0	0.053	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite ⁴ (ppm)	2017	10	10	1.2	BDL – 1.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	NO

Notes: ¹ Fluoride is added to water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.
² Of the 50 sites tested, 1 exceeded the action level. The next round of testing is due in 2020.
³ Of the 50 sites tested none exceeded the action level. The next round of testing is due in 2020.
⁴ Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.

Disinfection By-Products, By-Product Precursors and Disinfectant Residuals

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2017	80	n/a	59.0 ¹	16.0 – 96.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) - Stage 2	2017	80	0	44.0 ¹	35.0 – 44.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	2017	60	n/a	29.0 ²	13.0 – 37.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb) - Stage 2	2017	60	0	23.0 ¹	18.0 – 23.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
TOC (Total Organic Carbon) (ppm)	2017	TT	n/a	1.8	1.00 – 1.80	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	NO
Chlorite (ppm)	2017	1.0	0.8	0.33	0.09 – 0.33	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Chlorine _{free} (ppm)	2017	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	2.20	0.11 – 2.20	Drinking water disinfectant	NO

Notes: ¹ The highest detected LRAA at site 501
² The highest detected LRAA at site 506

Turbidity

Substance	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Typical Source	Violation
Turbidity ¹	2017	TT = 1 NTU	0	0.12	n/a	Soil runoff	NO
		TT = percentage of samples <0.3 NTU		100%	n/a		

Note: ¹ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Microbiological Contaminants

(Data presented in this table were from Systems that collected *more* than 40 Total coliform samples per month)

Substance	Date Tested Positive	MCL	MCLG	TT Level 1 Assessment Trigger	Level Detected	Likely Sources	Violation
Total coliform	07/2017 12/2017	TT	n/a	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0.45% ² 0.45% ²	Naturally present in the environment	NO
E. coli	None	One Positive Sample ¹	0	n/a	0.0%	Human or animal fecal waste	NO

¹ A PWS will receive an E. coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result.
² One positive sample out of 223 samples tested during the month.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Customer Service
770.419.6200

Send Written Correspondence:

Cobb County Water System
Water Quality Report
660 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060
Fax: 770.419.6224

En Espanol

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Visite nuestra página de internet:
<https://cobbcounty.org/calidaddelagua>

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

- Main Customer Service Line Call Center 770.419.6200
- 24/7 Water Restriction Information & Reporting Line - Leave Message 770.419.6278
- 24/7 Emergency Service and Dispatch 770.419.6201

TOILET REBATE PROGRAM EXPANDED

In January 2018, The Board of Commissioners approved an expansion of the popular toilet rebate program to include all commercial properties built before 1993. Previously, this program was only available to single family customers. Commercial properties, including multi-family properties, can qualify for a rebate of \$50.00/toilet up to 100 toilets per property. The rebate will be applied as a credit to the water bill. Details on the program and links to the application can be found at <https://cobbcounty.org/commercial-rebate>. We are pleased to be able to expand our offerings to Cobb County's commercial and industrial customers.