

General Information

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.



MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* are microscopic organisms that are relatively widespread in the environment. Surface waters, such as lakes and rivers that contain a high amount of sewage contamination or animal wastes are more susceptible to increased numbers of these parasites. Your source water systems are taking steps to make sure these organisms do not pose a problem in your drinking water. Current protection measures include chlorination, filtration, and monitoring turbidity levels and particle sizes. Additionally, routine back-washing of the filters helps to eliminate the chances of finding these organisms in treated water. Occasionally, these organisms have been found in the raw (untreated) water, but neither *Cryptosporidium* nor *Giardia* have been found in the finished (treated) water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immunocompromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Information about Lead

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. NEVER make baby formula with warm or hot tap water. Lead is rarely found in source water. If lead is present in tap water, it is primarily from corrosion of materials that were used in older plumbing, solder that connects pipes, or from pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street. Lead is no longer used in manufacturing these products, but plumbing components containing lead may still remain in some older homes and buildings. When water sits for several hours in pipes containing these older materials, lead can leach into the water.

Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials that were used in household plumbing. The EPA and the CDC make the following recommendations:

- Before using any tap water for drinking or cooking, flush your water system by running the kitchen tap (or any other tap you take drinking or cooking water from) on COLD for 1–2 minutes. Flushing can minimize the potential for lead exposure, especially if the water has been sitting undisturbed for several hours, as in overnight.
- In all situations, especially for making baby formula, drink or cook only with water that comes out of the cold tap. Warm or hot tap water is more likely to cause lead to leach from plumbing materials.
- Periodically remove the aerator on the tip of the faucet and wash out any debris such as metal particles.

Boiling will NOT reduce the amount of lead in your water. If you choose to have your tap water tested, be sure to use a properly certified laboratory. 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 800-426-4791 and from <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm>.

Monitoring Schedule and Results

Our source water is monitored for contaminants according to a schedule assigned by the ADEM, using EPA approved methods and a state certified laboratory. The ADEM allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

Constituent Monitored	Wetumpka	CEW&SA	Five Star
Inorganic Contaminants	--	2023	2023
Lead and Copper	2022	2022	2022
Microbiological Contaminants	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Nitrates	--	2023	2023
Radiological Contaminants	--	2022	2022
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	--	2022	2022
Volatile Organic Contaminants	--	2022	2022
Disinfection By-products	2023	2023	2023
Cryptosporidium and Giardia	--	2017	2017
PFAS Contaminants	--	2022	2023
UCMR5 Contaminants	--	2023	2023

UCMR5 Contaminants: The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) requires monitoring by certain water systems for 30 unregulated contaminants during 2022 - 2026 on assigned schedules. Our water sources were monitored by CEWA and by Five Star Water during 2023. CEW&SA's results from all four quarters showed none of these contaminants were detected. Wetumpka Water Works is scheduled to sample UCMR5 during 2024. For more information, including the full list of UCMR 5 contaminants we monitored, see <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

2024 Annual Water Quality Report (Testing Performed January through December 2023)



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Definitions

Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Coliform Absent (ca): laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Detected contaminant: any regulated or unregulated contaminant detected at or above its method detection limit (or reportable limit)

Disinfection byproducts (DBPs): formed when disinfectants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter (i.e., decaying vegetation) present in the source water.

Distribution System Evaluation (DSE): 4-quarter study conducted by water systems to identify locations with high concentrations of THMs and HAAs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): – yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site

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

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water

Micrograms per liter (µg/L): equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms.

Microsiemens per centimeter (µs/cm): unit of measurement for Specific Conductance.

Milligrams per liter (mg/L): equivalent to parts per million (ppm).

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

90th Percentile: The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

Not Detected (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.

NR (Not Reported): laboratory analysis, usually Secondary Contaminants, not reported by water system.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L): corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L): corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (pg/L): corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/L): corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Standard Units (S.U.): pH of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases and is affected by temperature and carbon dioxide gas.

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

Unregulated Contaminants: contaminants for which the EPA has not established MCLs.

Variances & Exemptions (V&E): State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Ronnie Windham, General Manager, at 334-567-8404. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Water Works Office at 2909 Elmore Road.

More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report, covering water quality data from January through December 2023. Our drinking water supply met or surpassed the strict regulations of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all public water suppliers to prepare and distribute reports like this once every year.

* Did not purchase from Montgomery Water Works (MWWW) in 2023; therefore, MWWW data was not necessary for this report.

Questions?

Below is a table of contaminants for which the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management require testing. These contaminants were not detected in your drinking water unless they are also listed in the Detected Drinking Water Contaminants table elsewhere in this report.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminant		MCL	Unit of Msmt	MCL	Unit of Msmt	
Bacteriological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria		<5%	present/absent	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100 ppb	
Fecal Coliform and E. coli		0	present/absent	Dichloromethane	5 ppb	
Turbidity		TT	NTU	1,2-Dichloropropane	5 ppb	
Cryptosporidium		TT	Cal.organisms/l	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400 ppb	
Radiological Contaminants		6	ppb	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6 ppb	
Beta/photon emitters		7	ppb	Dinosesb	7 ppb	
Alpha emitters		4	mrem/yr	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30 ppq	
Combined radium		15	pCi/l	Diquat	20 ppb	
Uranium		5	pCi/l	Endothall	100 ppb	
Inorganic Chemicals		2	ppb	Endrin	30 ppb	
Antimony		TT	TT	Epichlorohydrin	TT	
Arsenic		6	ppb	Ethylbenzene	700 ppb	
Barium		10	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50 ppt	
Chromium		7	MFL	Glyphosate	700 ppb	
Copper		2	ppm	Heptachlor	400 ppb	
Fluoride		4	ppb	Heptachlor epoxide	200 ppb	
Lead		5	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50 ppb	
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)		50	ppb	Lindane	100 ppb	
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)		200	ppm	Methoxychlor	40 ppb	
Halogenated acids (HAA5)		200	ppb	Oxamyl [Vydlate]	200 ppb	
Unregulated Contaminants		0.5	ppb	Polychlorinated biphenyls	AL=15 ppb	
Chloroform		1	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	2 ppb	
Bromodichloromethane		500	ppm	Picloram	10 ppm	
Chlorodibromomethane		4	ppm	Simazine	1 ppm	
Secondary Contaminants		.05	ppm	Stryrene	100 ppb	
Aluminum		5	ppb	Tetrachloroethylene	5 ppb	
Chloride		1	ppm	Toluene	70 ppb	
Hardness		3	ppb	Toxaphene	TT ppb	
Iron		2,4,5-TPI [Silvex]	TT			
Acrylamide		50	ppb	Alachlor	2 ppb	
Benzene		.07	ppm	Benzene	2 ppb	
Benz[a]pyrene [PAHs]		200	ppb	Carbofuran	5 ppb	
Sodium		5	ppb	Chloroform	40 ppb	
Sulfate		5	ppb	Chlorotrichloroethylene	5 ppb	
Total Dissolved Solids		2	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2 ppb	
Zinc		10	ppm	Xylenes	10 ppb	
Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts						
Chlorine		4	ppm	Chlorine	200 ppb	
Chlorine Dioxide		800	ppb	Chloramines	1000 ppb	
Chloramines		4	ppm	Bromate	75 ppb	
Bromate		10	ppm	Chlorite	600 ppb	
Chloride		1	ppm	HAA5 [Total halocetic acids]	5 ppb	
Color		60	ppb	TTMH [Total trihalomethanes]	7 ppb	
Dialapon		80	ppb	Total organic carbon	TT ppb	
Dibromochloropropane		800	ppb			
1,2-Dichlorobenzene		4	ppm			
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (para)		10	ppb			
o-Dichlorobenzene		1	ppm			
1,2-Dichloroethane		60	ppb			
1,1-Dichloroethylene		60	ppb			
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene		80	ppb			
LIST OF SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS						
Alkalinity, Total (as CA, Co ₃)		Alkalinity, Total (as CA, Co ₃)				
Aluminum		Aluminum				
Calcium, as Ca		Calcium, as Ca				
Chloride		Chloride				
Color		Color				
LIST OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
Aldicarb		Hexachlorobutadiene				
Aldicarb Sulfone		Chloroform				
Aldicarb Sulfoxide		Isopropylbenzene				
Aldrin		O-Chlorotoluene				
Bromoacetic Acid		p-isopropyltoluene				
Bromobenzene		M-Dichlorobenzene				
Bromochloromethane		Dibromochloromethane				
Bromodichloromethane		Dibromomethane				
Bromodichloroethane		1,1-Dichloroethane				
Bromoform		1,3-Dichloropropane				
Bromonemethane		2,2-Dichloropropane				
Butachlor		Methachlor				
N-Butylbenzene		Metribuzin				
MTBE		MTBE				
Sec-Butylbenzene		Naphthalene				
Dicamba		Tert - Butylbenzene				
Dichlorodifluoromethane		Trichlorofluoromethane				
Carbaryl		1,2,3-Trichloropropane				
Carbaril		1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene				
Parquat		1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene				

Detected Drinking Water Contaminants: Wetumpka Water Works and Sewer Board						
Contaminants		Violation	Level Detected	Msmt	MCLG	MCL
Total coliform bacteria	NO	1 positive sample in Nov/2023	Present or Absent	0	presence in 5% of samples	Naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other bacteria may be present
Copper	NO	0.056*	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion; leaching from wood preservatives
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	LRAA27.2-73.9	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total haloacetic acids (HAA5)	NO	LRAA12.4-26.4	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Detected Drinking Water Contaminants: CEW&SA and Five Star

Contaminants	Violation	Levels Detected	Unit of Msmt	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (finished water)	NO	1.3-2.0	1,602.05 ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity	NO	0.09	0.09 NTU	TT	TT	Soil runoff (Measure of cloudiness of the water)
Total Organic Carbon	NO	0.86-1.16	0.86-1.68 ppm	6	6	Petroleum refinery discharge; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Antimony	NO	0.22	ND	n/a	10	Erosion; runoff from orchards and glass & electronics production
Arsenic	NO	0.3	0.54 ND	2	2	Drilling wastes; metal refineries discharge; erosion
Barium	NO	0.011	0.03 ppm	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion
Chromium	NO	0.49	1.1 ppm	100	100	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion; wood preservative leaching
Copper	NO	0.0732 *	0.009 * ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Erosion; water additive for tooth health; factory waste
Fluoride	NO	0.40	0.44 ppm	4	4	Corrosion of natural deposits
Lead	NO	ND	ND ppm	0	AL=0.015	Fertilizer run-off; septic tank leaching; sewage; erosion
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	NO	ND	0.11 ppm	10	10	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	NO	14.5 - 32.8	18.2-45.5 ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halogenated acids (HAA5)	NO	10.3 - 23.1	1.60-42.4 ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	NO	2.9-50.1	14.6-39.0 ppb			