Public Water System ID# 2990002 | CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

WATER QUALITY

2023 | ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

YOUR WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS FOR WATER QUALITY

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services delivered to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. This report is a snapshot of last year's (January 1 through December 31, 2023) water quality.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Our water is a ground water source and is pumped from the Upper Floridan Aquifer by three wells averaging approximately 700 feet in depth. Due to the large volumes of good quality water contained in most of this aquifer, it is the most heavily developed and productive aquifer in the State of Georgia.

The City of Waycross owns the water system. The City Commission has the ultimate responsibility and authority to maintain and develop the system as needed.

Waycross
Opportunity in every direction.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The City Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month on the first floor of City Hall at 417 Pendleton Street at 7:00 p.m.

Your opinions and participation are appreciated.

If you have questions, or would like more information regarding this report, please contact: Katie Mulkey or Wendell Dawson at (912) 287-2940.

waycrossga.gov

YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK!

High quality water is more than the dream of the conservationists, more than a political slogan; high quality water, in the right quantity at the right place at the right time, is essential to health, recreation, and economic growth.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

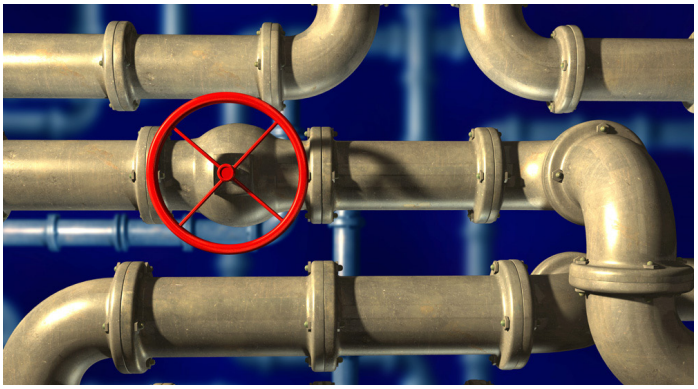
The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include surface water sources such as rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and springs, and ground water sources like wells.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, 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:

- **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wild life.
- **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 and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from a variety of sources, such as, agriculture, urban storm runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants,** ncluding synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about **contaminants** and potential health effects is provided on page 3 of this report.



Additional Information Regarding LEAD

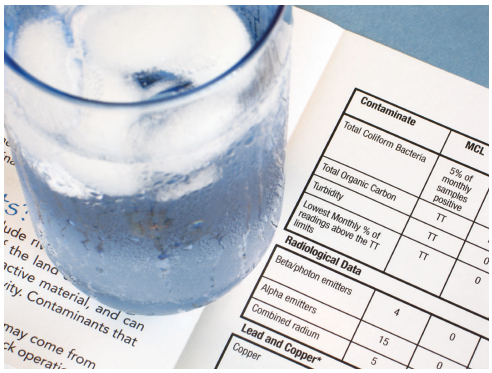
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water line has been sitting for several hours. you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

CONTAMINANTS

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING 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 **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).** 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater runoff, 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, urban stormwater runoff, 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and ***Radioactive contaminants,*** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection.

Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection.

Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

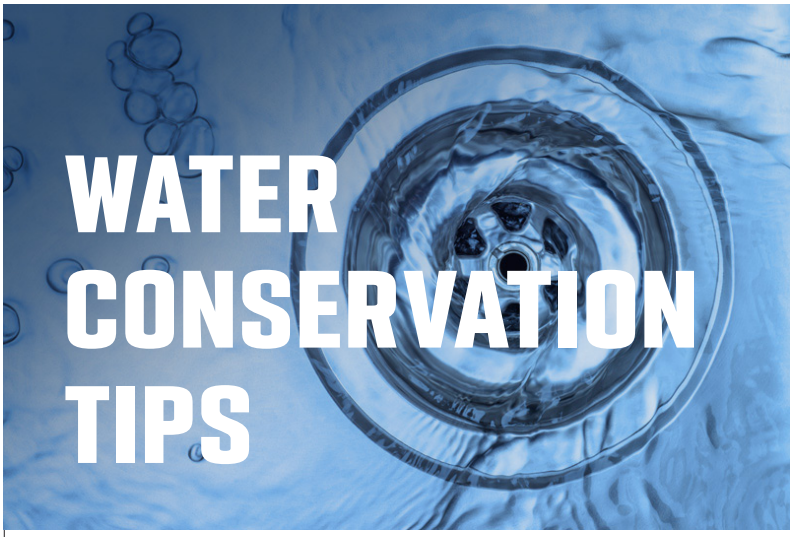
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

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 health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

HOTLINE

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Did You Know?

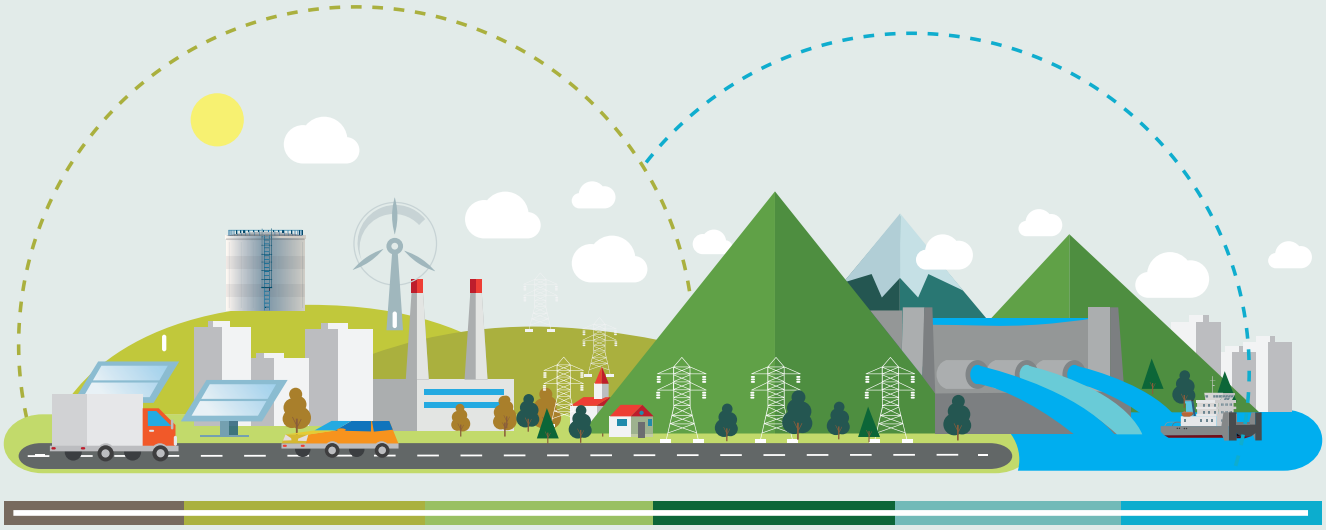
THE AVERAGE U.S. HOUSEHOLD USES APPROXIMATELY 400 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY OR 100 GALLONS PER PERSON PER DAY?

Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. **Small changes can make a big difference—**try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers—a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

NEED MORE IDEAS OR INFORMATION?
visit www.epa.gov/watersense

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS



Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility.
YOU can help protect our community's drinking water source in several ways:

- **Eliminate excess use** of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides. These products contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- **Pick up** after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, **properly maintain your system** to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- **Dispose of chemicals** properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- **Volunteer in your community.** Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's **Adopt Your Watershed** to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- **Organize a storm drain stenciling project** with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste—Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

WATER QUALITY DATA

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The **Waycross Water System** routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The concentration of some of these constituents does not vary significantly from year to year; therefore, not all constituents are tested for every year. Some test results included in the table may have been from samples dating back to 2022 due to testing schedules.

All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

In the Test Results Table below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions and additional data on page 7.

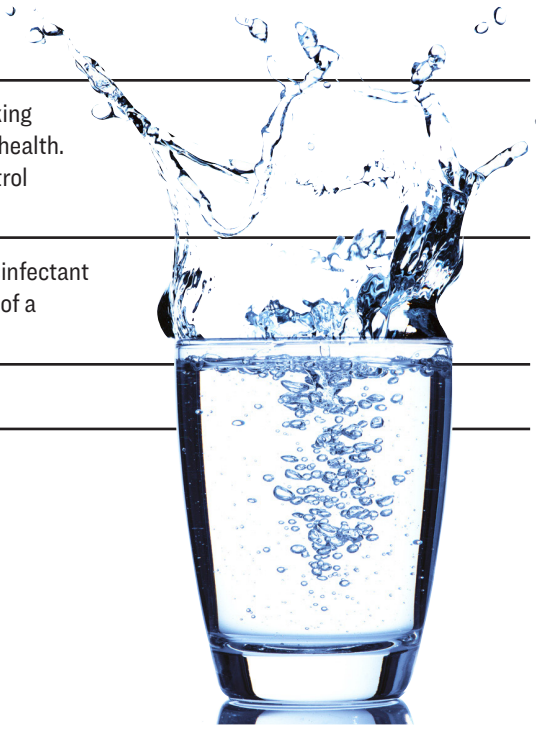
2023 TEST RESULTS TABLE

Contaminant/ Unit Measure	Violotion Y/N	Level Detected	Date Collected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS						
Total Coliform Bacteria (number of Samples tested positive per month)	Y	1	Monthly (2023)	0	1	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Barium	N	.0662	4-11-2023	2.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ug/l) 90th Percentile	N	10.11	2022	0	AL = 1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride (mg/l)	N	.243	4-11-2023	.70	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promoates strong teeth
Lead (ug/l) 90th Percentile	N	0.38	2022	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Sulfate (mg/l)	N	47.6	4-11-2023	0	250	Erosion of natural deposits
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ug/l)	N	19.4	2023	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ug/l)	N	1.4	2023	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

WATER QUALITY
UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: ot applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	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.
MCL	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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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 microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Please contact Katie Mulkey or Wendell Dawson
Phone | 478-636-0150
We are here to help or answer any questions.

Waycross
Opportunity in every direction.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

Water utilities across the United States are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide its customers with an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) by adding a provision requiring all community water systems to deliver to their customers an annual water quality report which contains information on the water system's source water, levels of any detected contaminants, compliance with drinking water rules and other educational information.

We at the Waycross Water System work around the clock to provide excellent quality water to every tap. We appreciate all of our customers helping us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

In 2023, the City of Waycross met all state and federal regulations for water quality.

ESG Operations

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