

**Pickens County
Water & Sewer Authority
Annual Water Quality Report
2019 PWS - GA2270002**



Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

How can I get involved?

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting their drinking water. The Pickens County Water & Sewer Authority Board meeting is held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Pickens County Administration Building, Room 149 located at 1266 East Church Street in Jasper, Georgia. Please call 706-253-8718, by the previous Thursday if you would like your name added to the meeting agenda.

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Pickens County water sources are purchased water from the City of Calhoun, Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority, City of Jasper, and Utilities Inc.

Source water assessment and its availability

As required our system must meet certain quality parameters in accordance with the Georgia Drinking Water Quality Rules, in which we did meet or surpass. The EPD conducts a routine Sanitary Survey to evaluate out systems compliance as well as a Well Head Protection Report.

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 Source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes and streams, also 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 number 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.

Available website for more information:

Safe Drinking Water Hotline at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or telephone (800-426-4791)

Additional Information for 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. Pickens County Water & Sewer Authority 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Conservation Tips:

Fix A Leak Week



Fix a Leak Week is to remind customers to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

One of the easiest ways to save water is by finding and fixing leaks. Fix a Leak Week is sponsored by the U.S. EPA Water Sense program, to give our customers the opportunity to improve their water efficiency in homes or businesses by checking for leaks.

Here are a few Facts:

- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, which is the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry.
- Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.
- Fixing and correcting household water leaks can save homeowners about 10% on their water bills.

Ways to Check for Leaks:

- A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It's likely a family of four has a serious leak issue if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not stop spinning and the reading keeps increasing, you probably have a leak. If reading remains the same with no use then everything is good on your side of the meter.
- One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food color in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 10 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. (Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.)



Faucets & Shower Heads:

- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers!
- Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucets washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary.
- A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's the amount of water it takes to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

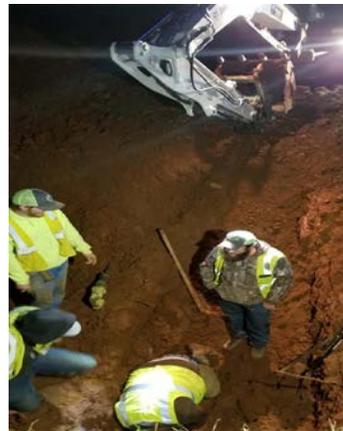
Toilets:

- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper- a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- If the average family replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new Water Sense labeled ones, it could save 13,000 gallons per year. Replacing with Water Sense labeled products could save a family nearly \$2,400 in water bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

Irrigation Systems:

- An irrigation system should be checked each spring before use to make sure it was not damaged by frost or freezing temperatures.
- An irrigation system that has a leak the thickness of a dime can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- Also check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

Once you find and fix your leaks you can go to www.mydropcounts.org to pledge your water saving, and learn more about water conservation tips.





Source Water Protection Tips

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

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides- they 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.

Sampling Results

Below shown is only the contaminants that were detected in the water.

During the past year, there have been hundreds of water samples taken in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. We feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentration of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the samples were taken.

Water Quality Data Table

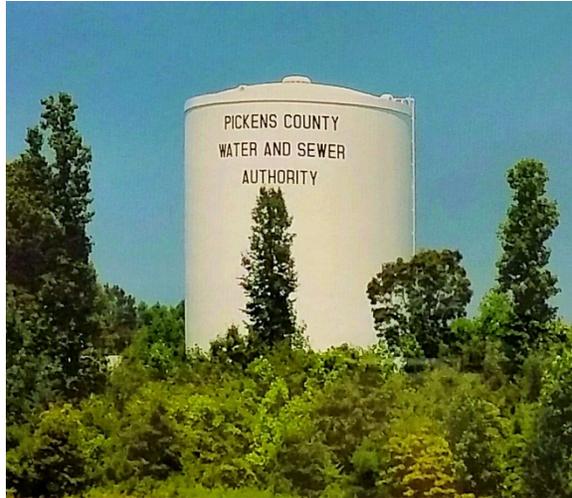
The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Water Samples for 2019 CCR

Regulated Substances (unit of measure)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	AVERAGE RESULTS	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine(ppm)	2019	4	4	1.65	0.2-1.65	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride(ppm)	2019	4	4	1.3	0.1-1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2019	10	10	2.1	0.44-2.10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2019	N/A	TT	30	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2019	N/A	0.3	100	NA	NO	Soil runoff
Halo acetic Acids (ppb)	2019	60	0	45.3125	4.6-45.3125	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (ppm)	2019	80	0	52.275	6.15-56.3	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminants	Year Sampled	MCLG	AL	Amount Detected (90th percentile)	Total Sites Tested	Violation	Typical Source
Cooper (ppm)	2018	0	AL=1300	340	20 SAMPLES	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservations.
Lead (ppm)	2018	0	AL=15	1.4	20 SAMPLES	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Substances	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	AVERAGE RESULTS	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Iron (ppm)	2019	N/A	N/A	0.13	0.00-0.13	NO	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial waste
Manganese (ppm)	2019	N/A	N/A	0.04	0.00-0.04	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2019	N/A	N/A	8.00	6.50-8.00	NO	Naturally occurring
Zinc (ppm)	2019	N/A	N/A	0.70	0.00-0.70	NO	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Unregulated Substances	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	AVERAGE RESULTS	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloroform (ppb)	2019	N/A	N/A	50.00	11.00-50.00	NO	Organic Compound found in water when adding Chlorine for water treatment.

Microbiological Contaminants	Sample Dates	MCLG	MCL		Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source
E coli	2019	0	0	N/A	0 positive	No	Human or Animal fecal waste

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definitions
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the Cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
Positive Samples /Month	positive samples/ month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definitions
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
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



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