2024 Annual Water Quality Report

AUSTELL WATER SYSTEM

January 2024 through December 2024

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Water System Identification Number
GA0670001

THIS IS AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF WATER DELIVERED TO YOU BY THE CITY OF AUSTELL WATER SYSTEM. THIS REPORT MEETS THE FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (SDWA) REQUIREMENTS FOR THE *CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)* AND CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE SOURCE OF OUR WATER, ITS CONSTITUENTS, AND THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY CONTAMINANTS.

Safe water is vital to our community. Please read this report carefully, and if you have any questions, contact Austell Public Works at (770) 944-4325 or by e-mail to jannette@austellga.gov

About Your Water

Where your Drinking Water comes from

The City of Austell is a wholesale customer of the Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority which has two (2) surface water sources supplying two treatment facilities. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from Allatoona Lake, a United States Corps of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee, and south Bartow counties. The Quarles Treatment Division receives water from the Chattahoochee River.

Source Water Assessment

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 information:

- Delineating the water supply watershed for each drinking water intake
- Developing an inventory of potential sources of contamination
- Determining the susceptibility of drinking water sources to identified potential sources of contamination, and
- Increasing public involvement in and awareness of drinking water watershed concerns.

For more information on this project visit the Source Water Assessment website below or you can request information by mail from the Atlanta Regional Commission:

Attention: Source Water Assessment
Environmental Planning Division
Atlanta Regional Commission
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Website:
http://www.atlantaregional.org

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every contaminant regulated by United States Environmental Protection Agency 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:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

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

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that an addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

Key to Table	
AL: Action Level	PPM: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level	PPB: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (Φg/L)
MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:	TT: Treatment Technique
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	N/A: Not Applicable
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	N/D: Not Detected
MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	BDL: Below Detection Limits

Tables of Contaminants

Cobb County- Marietta Water Authority

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS, AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS								
Contaminant	**Date Tested**	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detected Level**	**Range**	**Major Sources**	**Violation**
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes) Stage 2	2024	PPB	80	0	37.0 [5]	30.0-37.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	No
HAA5's (Haloacetic Acids) Stage 2	2024	PPB	60	0	28.1 [5]	23.0-28.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection	No
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	2024	PPM	TT	N/A	1.9	0.8-1.90	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	No
Chlorite	2024	PPM	1.0	0.8	0..40	00.029-0.40	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	No
Chlorine (Free)	2024	PPM	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2.0	0.00-2.00	Drinking water disinfectant	No

Note: [5]The highest detected LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) at site

TURBIDITY							
Contaminant	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Level Found**	**Range**	**Sample Date**	**Violation**	**Typical source**
Turbidity[6]	TT = 1 NTU	0	0.09	N/A	2024	No	Soil runoff
	TT = percentage of samples <0.3 NTU		100%	N/A			

Note: [6]Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. This is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminant	**Date Tested**	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detected Level**	**Range**	**Major Sources**	**Violation**
Fluoride[1]	2024	PPM	4	4	0.78 ppm	0.50 – 0.78 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Nitrate/Nitrite[2]	2024	PPM	10	10	0.67 ppm	0.28-0.67 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	No

Notes:
[1]EPA has recommended non-enforceable Secondary Maximum Contaminant (SMCL) level for Aluminum based on esthetics.
[2]Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as N.

LEAD AND COPPER								
Contaminant	**Date Tested**	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**90% of tested sites were less than**	**# Sites Exceeding the AL**	**Major Sources**	**Violation**
Lead[3]	2023	PPB	AL = 15	0	1.9	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.	No
Copper[4]	2023	PPM	AL = 1.3	0	0.054	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	No

Notes:
[3]The next round of testing is due in 2025. [4]The next round of testing is due in 2025.

CCMWA had no detections of Total Coliform or E. coli in 2024

Austell Water System

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS, AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS								
Contaminant	**Date Tested**	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detected Level**	**Range**	**Major Sources**	**Violation**
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes) Stage 2	2024	PPB	80	0	54.85 [5]	36.25- 54.85	By-products of drinking water disinfection	No
HAA5's (Haloacetic Acids) Stage 2	2024	PPB	60	0	39.65 [5]	21.35-39.65	By-products of drinking water disinfection	No

Note: [5]The highest detected LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) at site 501 & 502

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (System Collecting fewer than 40 Total Coliform samples per month)							
Contaminant	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**TT level 1 Assessment Trigger**	**Level Detected**	**Sample Dates**	**Violation**	**Typical Source**
Total coliform	None	None	2 or more TC+ samples in a month	0	Jan thru Dec 2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria	One Positive Sample*	0	N/A	0	Jan thru Dec 2024	No	Human or animal fecal waste

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (System Collecting more than 40 Total Coliform samples per month)							
Contaminant	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**TT level 1 Assessment Trigger**	**Level Detected**	**Samples Dates**	**Violation**	**Typical Source**
Total coliform	TT	N/A	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0	Jan thru Dec 2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria	One Positive Sample*	0	N/A	0	Jan thru Dec 2024	No	Human or animal fecal waste

*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 with a routine/repeat TC+ pr EC+ sample result

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits or MCLs for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

Cobb County- Marietta Water Authority monitored for Unregulated Contaminants. The following table can be found on CCMWA website:
https://www.ccmwa.org/reports/water-quality-reports

VIOLATIONS- City of Austell or CCMWA had no violations in 2024.

Additional Health Information

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The United States 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 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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 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.*

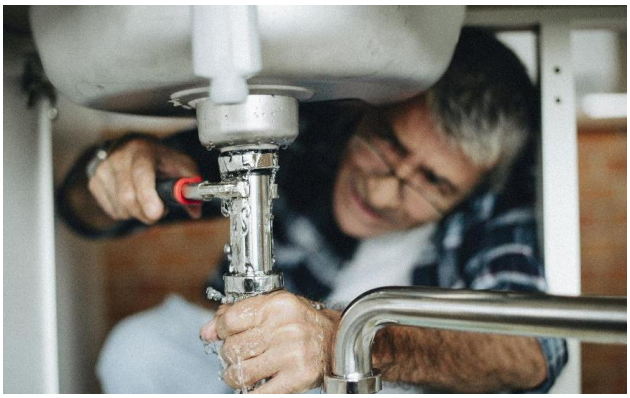
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT YOUR WATER

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

We need your understanding and support to be successful, so we hope you will get involved with us all the ways you can on projects, programs, and policies. You are welcome to attend our Council meetings. We meet on First Monday of each month (except for holidays) at 7:00pm on 5000 Austell Powder Spring Rd, Austell, GA 30106. A meeting agenda is posted at our website after each meeting. We always make time to hear from guests and answer questions so please join us to learn more about what we're working on. Your input is important to us!

YOUR ROLE IN WATER QUALITY



Check Your Home or Business' Plumbing for Lead and Copper

We work hard to provide high quality water when it arrives on your property. Once the water we provide passes through the meter on your property, however, it is exposed to a whole new environment in your home that we have no control over. But you do.

Some of the things that can change the water quality on your property include your plumbing and pipe material, how long you go without running the water, and whether or how you connect outdoor hoses to your home's water supply. 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. Austell Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter

certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Run Water After Vacation

Another factor that affects water quality in your home is how “stale” the water is. When you leave your home or business for a long time, as you may when you take a vacation, the water in the pipes and plumbing doesn’t move. When water has been sitting in the pipes for days, bacteria can grow, and if you have lead or copper plumbing, those metals can start to seep into the water. The best thing to do when you get back from being away after a long time is to run the water on full blast for 30 seconds to two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. And always use cold water for cooking, to draw in fresh water from the outside.

Safely Connect Outdoor Hoses

A third factor that can influence water quality in your home are connections to your water outside your home. The outdoor spigot connection to a hose provides a potential way for pollutants to enter your plumbing. If you use the hose to spray chemicals on your yard by connecting the nozzle to a spray bottle, or if you have a sprinkler system connected, there is the potential for chemicals from the bottle or the lawn to be accidentally sucked back into your internal plumbing. To prevent this from happening, we recommend (and in some states it is the law) that you have a device installed to prevent that from happening.

Look Out for Special Populations

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Additional Resources

- *Information on lead in drinking water: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead (opens in a new window)*
- *Requirements of the Water Quality Report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report): http://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/201405/documents/guide_grg_ccr_2011.pdf (opens in a new window)*
- *The Safe Drinking Water Act: www.epa.gov/sdwa (opens in a new window)*
- *CDC Guide to Understanding your CCR: http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/understanding_ccr.html (opens in a new window)*
- *American Water Works Association: http://www.awwa.org (opens in a new window)*
- *Water Environment Federation: http://www.wef.org (opens in a new window)*
- *Groundwater Information: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis and http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/ (opens in a new window)*

Required information on specific contaminants Cryptosporidium, and TTHMs

Cryptosporidium- CCMWA was not required to monitor for Crypto in 2024

Cryptosporidiosis or “Crypto” is a disease that causes mild to severe diarrhea. It comes from a microscopic parasite, Cryptosporidium, that can live in the intestine of humans and animals and be passed in the stool of an infected person or animal. The parasite is protected by an outer shell, an oocyst, that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time. This makes it very resistant to the type of disinfectant we use to clean the water. During the past two decades, Crypto has become recognized as one of the most common causes of waterborne disease (recreational water and drinking water) in humans in the United States. The parasite is found in every region of the United States and throughout the world.

There are currently no accurate ways for detecting Crypto in the water supply at the very low levels that cause sickness. Therefore, EPA does not require testing for the Crypto parasite unless concentrations in the water before treatment exceed 10 oocysts per liter.

Symptoms of a Crypto infection include nausea, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. Most healthy people can recover from the disease within a few weeks. However, some

immuno-compromised people (such as those with AIDS, undergoing chemotherapy or recent organ transplant recipients) are at a greater risk of developing a severe, life-threatening illness. Immuno-compromised persons should contact their doctor to learn about appropriate precautions to prevent infection.

If systems with TTHM (total trihalomethanes) samples above 0.080 mg/L and less than MCL

Trihalomethanes are compounds that can form in water over time when the chlorine used for disinfectant breaks down. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.