

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
City of Fairburn

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Sincerely,

Derek Hampton
Director of Utilities
City of Fairburn



Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

Community Participation

Your city council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 56 Malone Street SW, and online at City of Fairburn on Facebook. Your participation and comments are welcome at these meetings.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Martin, Utilities Manager, at (770) 964-2244.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Fairburn's water is the Chattahoochee River, and the treatment of this water is provided by the City of Atlanta. Atlanta treats raw water from the Chattahoochee River at two surface water treatment plants, the Chattahoochee Plant and the Hemphill Plant. These two plants provide 75 percent of Atlanta's water. The water is then distributed through the City of Atlanta's distribution system through 19 master meters located at various points around Fairburn.

Water received by Fairburn has met or exceeded all required water safety and quality standards set by state and federal agencies. Once the water is in the City of Fairburn's system, additional testing is performed to ensure the water remains safe and of the highest quality. Any monitoring violations that occur will be followed by a public notice.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta Watershed Management and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed an assessment of potential for pollution of surface drinking water supply sources. The results of this assessment can be found on the City of Fairburn website.

A source water assessment is a study and report unique to each water system that provide basic information about the water used to provide drinking water. Source water assessments:

- Identify the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water.
- Identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies.
- Provide an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

This information can help communities understand the potential for contamination of their water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

Since its creation in 2001, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has implemented one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the country. It is staffed by the Atlanta Regional Commission and includes 15 counties and 92 cities, including the City of Fairburn. It is the only major metropolitan area in the country with more than 100 jurisdictions implementing a long-term comprehensive water management program that is required and enforced. For more information, please visit northgeorgiawater.org/.

What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and housecleaning products. From 2006 to 2010, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also visit goo.gl/aZPgeB to find more information about disposal locations in your area.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

2023 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	RESULT DESCRIPTION	VIOLATION
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.55 - 0.85	0.68	Highest Monthly Average	No
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)*	10	0.49 - 0.81	0.69	Yearly Average	No
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)**	TT = RAA < 2.0 ppm	1.0 - 2.0	1.4	Highest Monthly RAA	No
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU	0.02 - 0.37	0.09	Highest Monthly Average	No
Turbidity (% of samples)	TT = 95 % samples <0.3 NTU	NA	99.7%	Lowest Monthly Percentage	No

* Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as Nitrogen (N)

** TOC compliance is determined by calculating the Running Annual Average of treated water monthly; RAA > 2.0 ppm is in compliance

*** TT=Treatment Technology

2023 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	RESULT DESCRIPTION	VIOLATION
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	0.0 - 1.93	1.09	Highest Monthly Average	No
Total Coliform (% of Samples)	<5 % Positive per Month	0 - 1.3	1.3%	Highest Monthly Percentage	No
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	17.4 - 67.0	39.8	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	18.2 - 85.0	64.5	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No

2021 LEAD AND COPPER LEVELS - SAMPLED AT THE RESIDENTIAL TAPS (INCLUDING CONSECUTIVE SYSTEMS)

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	NO. OF RESIDENTIAL TAP SAMPLED	RESULT	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Copper (ppm)*	AL= 1.30	50	0.15	90th Percentile	No
Lead (ppb)*	AL= 15	50	2.4	90th Percentile	No

*Triennial Monitoring. No Sites exceeded the Action Level (AL) for Lead and Copper in 2021.

2023* UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS SAMPLED AT SOURCE WATER**

PARAMETER (UNITS)	SMCL	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	RESULT	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0033 - 0.0048	0.0048	Highest Detected Result	No
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0064 - 0.0083	0.0083	Highest Detected Result	No
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0030 - 0.0043	0.0043	Highest Detected Result	No
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppb)	Not regulated	0.0030 - 0.0030	0.0030	Highest Detected Result	No

*UCMR 5 sampling took place in 4 quarterly sampling events (SE). Data reported here represents SE 1-3 only, SE 4 takes place in 2024.

**Unregulated contaminant sampling takes place every five years. It helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Q&A

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or bisphenol A- (BPA) free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we 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, or 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Fairburn, John Martin at (770) 964-2244 Ext. 351. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.