



# City of Dawsonville 2016 Annual Water Quality Report / Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## 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?

We have 4 production wells, and 1 production spring. We are able to produce at well 106-80 GPM (gallons per minute), well 108-100 GPM, well 109-140GPM well 110-200 GPM, and 60 GPM from the spring. We also have two storage tanks that provide 1 million gallons of capacity. We have water for today and for the future. We are currently purchasing some water from Etowah Water and Sewer Authority. Their CCR is attached

## Source water assessment and its availability

Source water assessment plan is available upon request.

## 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.

## How can I get involved?

City Council meetings are held on the first Monday and work sessions on the third Monday of every month at 5:00 PM upstairs in the G. L. Pete Gilleland Council Chambers at the Dawsonville Municipal Complex (City Hall) unless otherwise advertised. All meetings are open to the public.

## Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that 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're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons/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/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!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

2016 Lead and Copper samples were collected after the monitoring period. The City received a monitoring violation. Although the samples were late the samples were collected and in compliance.

## 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. City of Dawsonville 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>.

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## Water Quality Data Table

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 table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. 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. 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 requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.61	.45	3.8	2016	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.87	.18	1.29	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	3.1	.2	3.1	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (TCR) (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA	NA	2016	No	Naturally present in the environment

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.092	2016	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2016	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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)
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	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.
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
Turbidity	A measure of the cloudiness of the water and a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system

**For more information please contact:**

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ETOWAH WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY 2016 Annual Water Quality Report / Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)							
Substance Unit Of Measure	Year Sampled	MCL in mg/L	MCLG/ MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	4	4	1.41	2.0 -- 4.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.70	.50 - 2.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additives that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum or factories
TTHMs (total trihalomethanes) (ppm)	2016	.08 ppm/ mg/L		.0104	.01 - .08	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2016			.46	0.60 – 1.74	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2016	.30 NTU		0.04	.02 – 0.05	No	Soil runoff – a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
Turbidity (Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit)	2016	95%		100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Copper	2014	AL=1.3		.006	.025 - .22	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead – mg/L	2014	AL=.015		0	Not detected	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosions of natural deposits