



THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT (For the year 2015)



Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water

The City of LaFayette Water Department (ID# 2950002) is pleased to report your community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This 2015 Water Quality Report provides our customers with monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality tests during 2015. The City of LaFayette Water Department performed hundreds of tests during the past year on your drinking water to assess water quality and safety. Tests were performed on more than 160 water quality parameters. The chart on the following page shows your community's drinking water exceeds all safety and quality standards. For more information concerning water, or the facts presented in this report please call Mark Sisemore Water Treatment Plant Manager at (706) 638-4031 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Sources of your Drinking Water

- Big Springs Plant located on Indiana Street (Ground Water) produced an average of 1,033,000 gallons per day.
- Lee School Road Plant located on Lee School Road south of LaFayette (Ground Water Paleozoic-Rock aquifer, unconfined) produced an average of 856,000 gallons per day.

Purchased Sources

- Walker County Water Treatment Plant located at 333 Euclid Avenue, Chickamauga Ga. (four wells and Crawfish Spring, lake fed from the Paleozoic (Limestone) Knox aquifer and the New Alabama aquifer). We purchased an average of 773,000 gallons per day.
- Catoosa County Utilities (ground water from the lime stone group of the Paleozoic aquifer) we purchased an average of 5,257 gallons per day.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 as well as picking up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria possibly from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, occurring naturally or as a result of urban runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, occurring from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can naturally occur or be the result of oil and gas production and mine activities.

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 LaFayette Water System 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 minimizing exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant level (MCL): 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 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. MCLGs allow for a margin safety.

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

NA: Not Applicable.

ND: Not Detectable at testing limit.

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit

ppm: Parts per million means 1 part per 1,000,000 corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years, or 1 penny in 10,000.00 dollars.

ppb: Parts per billion means 1 part per 1,000,000,000 and corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or 1 penny in 10,000,000.00 dollars.

(a) Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to EPA optimum of 1 part per million.

(b) Water from the Treatment Plants does not contain lead or copper. However under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the customer tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.

(c) This level is based on a system-wide 4 Quarter running average of several samples, as required by EPA Testing Protocol. In order to ensure your tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for the public.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	LaFayette Water System	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.11	0.068-0.11	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.29	0.11-1.50	2015	No	Water Additive to control microbes
Copper (ppm)	AL=1,300	1,300	190 (b)	N/A	2013	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.93	0.50-1.36	2015	No	Water additive to promote strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	AL= 15	0	7.6 (b)	N/A	2013	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Total Nitrate and Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.76	0-1.6	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage: Erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	6.6***	1.7-6.6	2013	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetics (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NA	11.3***	.02-11.3	2013	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
IDSE Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	7.4	ND-62.7	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
IDSE Haloacetics (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NA	3.5	ND-22.9	2015	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity * (ntu)	TT	NA	.31	.01-.31	2015	No	Soil Runoff
	Percentage of samples <.30		99.9%				
Total Coliform (Bacteria)**	2 samples	0 Samples	0 samples**	N/A	2015	No	Bacteria naturally present in the environment used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present

*Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system.

** From 20 to 25 samples are collected and tested monthly. No more than one sample can be positive for total coliform.

*** This number represents the highest quarterly average during 2013.

The City of LaFayette monitors for unregulated parameters in order to assist EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary.

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	LaFayette Water System	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chromium (ppb)	N/A	Not regulated	0.20	ND-0.30	2015	Naturally present in environment
Strontium (ppb)	N/A	Not regulated	33.90	20-50	2015	Naturally present in environment
Vanadium (ppb)	N/A	Not regulated	0.38	0.30-0.48	2015	Naturally present in environment
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	N/A	Not regulated	0.20	0.10-0.26	2015	Naturally present in environment

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 contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Additional Information Sources:

<http://www.dnr.state.us/epa>

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.awwa.water.org>

The City of LaFayette Council meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm, at City Hall 207 South Duke Street.

Water Conservation Tips

Inside water use

- Faucets can drip at a rate of one drop per second, wasting more than 3,000 gallons of water a year.
- Toilets can leak at a rate of 200 gallons a day, which can add up to 73,050 gallons of water a year. To find out if you have a leak, place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- Taking a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons of water. Install a water saving showerhead to reduce the flow.
- A full bath tub requires about 70 gallons of water. Place a stopper in the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub to limit waste.
- The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. High-efficiency washing machines use less than 28 gallons of water per load.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate load size selection on the washing machine to save water.
- If your toilet was made before 1993, you probably have an inefficient model that uses at least 3.5 gallons per flush. New high-efficiency models use less than 1.3 gallons per flush. Installing a new toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 on their water bill annually, \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.

Outside use

- Don't exceed watering recommendations for plants and shrubs, if in doubt consult with your local nursery. Most homeowners are surprised to learn that more plants and shrubs die from over watering than anything else.
- Take advantage of the cool and moist air during the early morning and late afternoon when watering the lawn. Due to the natural heat of the sun during the middle of the day, much of the water intended for the lawn will evaporate before it ever penetrates the soil.
- Use a spray nozzle for your garden hose, especially one with a shut off valve. This will reduce the flow rate of water while tending to the lawn or cleaning the car.

Georgia Water Stewardship Act

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010. It allows daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

The following outdoor water uses also are allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone:

- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;
- Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
- Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
- Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
- Irrigation of personal food gardens;
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
- Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
- Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
- Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
- Hydro seeding.