

# BARTOW COUNTY

*Water Consumer Confidence Report 2023*

*Water System ID Number: GA0150001*

**IMPORTANCE OF SAVING WATER | PRECAUTIONS | DATA**



**MORE  
INFORMATION**



770-387-5170



[www.bartowcountyga.gov/departments/water/index.php](http://www.bartowcountyga.gov/departments/water/index.php)



# Where does my water come from?

Acquiring, maintaining and distributing pristine water resources are the primary operational responsibilities and priorities of the Bartow County Water Department.

The majority (93%) of our water utility system resources are obtained through contracts with the cities of Adairsville, Cartersville, Emerson and also from water purchase agreements with Cobb-Marietta Water Authority, Cherokee County Water & Sewage Authority, and the Polk County Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Authority. Surface water drawn from Lake Allatoona in Eastern Bartow County by our major suppliers constitutes approximately 87% of the total potable (drinkable) water volume in our water system.



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.



# Play your part, be water smart!

## Wise Water Use



**Save it, or do without it!**

## Are there any special precautions I need to take?

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).



## Did you know?

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.

## Contact information:

Information about this report can be obtained from Mark Wallace of the Bartow County Water Department at 770-607-6309

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. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

A background image showing water being poured from a glass pitcher into a clear glass. The water is captured in motion, creating a dynamic splash effect. The overall color palette is light blue and white, giving it a clean, fresh appearance.

# *Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?*

Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily mean the water is harmful. For more details on contaminants and potential health impacts, reach out to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. Sources of drinking water, whether tap or bottled, can include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water moves over land or through the ground, it can naturally dissolve minerals, radioactive materials, and acquire substances from various sources like animals or human activities. These sources of contaminants can comprise microbial contaminants like viruses and bacteria, inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, pesticides, herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants. To ensure the safety of tap water, the EPA sets regulations limiting certain contaminants in public water systems. Similarly, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets regulations for contaminants in bottled water to protect public health.

# PROTECT THE SOURCE

Maintaining Water Resources Now and into the Future



## 1. Practice Conservation

One of the best ways to ensure sustainable water resources for the future is to practice conservation and smart water use practices today.



## 2. Support Watersheds

Watershed health is essential to protecting water supply. Most water infrastructure spending focuses on built infrastructure, but investment in watershed conservation is essential to ensure water security.



## 3. Ensure Quality

From source to faucet to waste, maintaining water quality requires an intersectional approach. Contaminants can enter waterways from runoff, groundwater pollution, and older infrastructure.



## 4. Grow Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is an important part of how drinking, wastewater, stormwater agencies can provide innovative, effective, affordable water services.

- 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.
- Source water assessments can be obtained through our water source providers below:
  - [City of Cartersville Water Department](#)
  - [Cobb County Water System](#)
  - [Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority](#)

# 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 MDRLG	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	.21	1	2023	No	Water additive use to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	5.66	4.82	5.66	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	62	49	62	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1	.47	1	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	5.6	2.7	5.6	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	5	.14	NA	NA	2023	No	Soil runoff

100% of the samples were below the TT value of 1. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was .14. Any measurement in excess of 5 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

# Copper & Lead Contaminants

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	.09	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	3.6	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

# Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
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.
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended.

# Important Drinking Water Definitions

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCGL	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	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	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
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	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	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

# Additional Information

## Lead Statement

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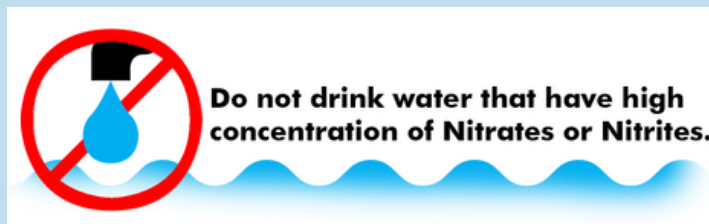
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. BCWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot 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>



## Nitrate

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Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your healthcare provider.



## Cross Connection Control Survey

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The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough