

# 2023 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Tallapoosa Water System

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GA CWS ID# 1430002 | Water System Contact: Philip Eidson (770-574-2345)

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## The City of Tallapoosa is Pleased to Present This Year's Annual Drinking Water Quality 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. Last year, we conducted tests for over 100 contaminants. We only detected 11 of those contaminants and found none to be at a level higher than the EPA allows in the Tallapoosa area. This report can be found at

<http://haralsoncountywaterauthority.com/water-quality-report/>.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

Your water is sourced from the Haralson County Water Authority, which draws it from the Tallapoosa River, Sims Wells, and Cleburne County, Alabama. We hold regular meetings of the Mayor and Council on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Tallapoosa City Hall located at 25 East Alabama Street, Tallapoosa, GA 30176. The Haralson County Water Board also meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in the conference room at the Water Authority office in Buchanan, GA. We encourage your active participation and welcome your comments at these meetings, as your input is invaluable in maintaining the quality of our water.

### 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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.

### Description of the Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.

Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding Liquid Alum to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process, passing through sand, gravel, and Anthracite Coal in filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of Lime is used for PH

balance, a small amount of chlorine is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms that may be in the water and a small amount of Fluoride is then added for Cavity prevention before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community.

## **Source Water Assessment and Its Availability**

Our community has completed a source water assessment that provides more information about our water source. Out of ninety-five potential sources of contamination cited in the report, seven fell in the low priority range, eighty-eight fell in the medium priority range, and zero fell in the high priority range. Most potential sources of contamination fell in the medium priority range and do not warrant a significant level of concern. The overall susceptibility score for Haralson County Water was medium. A copy of this report can be found at the Haralson County Water Authority office.

## **Community Source Water Protection**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides. These chemicals contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public Wastewater system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil, Paint, Stain, etc. to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people to "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Cross Connection Control Survey**

This survey aims 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 enter the distribution system under any flow conditions. If you have any of the devices listed below and are unsure if there is a cross connection, please contact Philip Eidson, city manager, or Boyd Coggins, public works director, at (770) 574-2345 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

## **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, saving 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 a month.
- Running 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 and try collecting rainwater or even bath water for your plants.
- 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. You have a leak if it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing.** Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a 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 uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill! You can visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **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. The City of Tallapoosa 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Additional Information for Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of 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 care for an infant, you should ask for advice from your healthcare provider.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of contaminants provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed in the table were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. These substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water at low levels. 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 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, though representative, some of our data 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 the table, we have provided the definitions  
of the terms used in the table on this page.**

<b>Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	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.
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.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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 contaminant level in <b>Unit</b> drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: Under certain conditions, the state or EPA may grant permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique.
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: MRDL is the maximum residual disinfectant level, the highest level allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that adding a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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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	1.48	1.03	1.98	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	45	7.4	62	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	54	11.5	95.4	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	1.7	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.006	.000	.012	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	100	100	.001	.000	.002	2023	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.77	.39	1.0	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	1.2	0	8.2	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	0	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU) % of Measurements less than .3	NA	.3	100%	NA	NA	2023	No	Soil runoff
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
Not Detected								
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	.11	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.5	2021	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	