



Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority
Water System I.D. # **GA0770042**
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2017

What's the source of your drinking water?

The water that is distributed by the Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority is collected from several different sources. A large portion of our water is purchased from nearby water treatment plants operated by the cities of Newnan, Griffin, and Atlanta. Percentage amounts for how much is from each city are shown in the water quality table accompanying this report. In addition to these sources, the Authority owns and operates its own water treatment plant that pulls water from the BT Brown Reservoir located in the northern part of Coweta County. This water is additionally supplemented by a well (also in northern Coweta County) that is capable of producing up to 400,000 gallons daily.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of all drinking water; both tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from a sewage treatment plant, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, or even 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;
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who needs 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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Guidelines that are published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as by the EPA offer appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants and are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged through website interaction or by calling the BT Brown Water Treatment Plant at 678-423-8668.

About your drinking water

Most people never even think about the quality of their drinking water but should you have any concerns, Water Quality Reports are published each year to provide detailed information about the quality of your drinking water during the past year. These reports will help you identify if there are contaminants present in your tap water and how these may affect your health.

Most homeowners will automatically receive a copy of the report each year. People living in apartments or condominiums may not receive a copy directly, but can still access this information on their community's website or by calling the local water department.

The Water Quality Report lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2017 calendar year as well as some analyses that were not detected. This sampling included a variety of bacterial, inorganic, and volatile organic contaminants as required by federal regulations, some of which were not detected in the CCWSA water supply. The presence of the contaminants that were detected does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. In fact, we are proud to report that no violations have occurred and that all lab results have consistently revealed levels far below EPA recommendations.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the Water Quality Report is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2017. EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of water quality, is more than one year old.

The Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority monitored for Cryptosporidium in the source water during 2017. Cryptosporidium was not detected in the raw (source) water. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface waters throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Monitoring of our source water indicates if these organisms are present. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. As previously mentioned, this contaminant was not detected in any of the testing that was performed.