

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Monitoring Performed January – December 2025

Marion County Rural Water Department

Permit #GA 1970003

100 East Burkhalter Avenue

Buena Vista, Georgia 31803

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report). The purpose of this report is to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Customers:	1711	Water Treatment	Chlorine
Water Sources:	Pure Aqua Water Shelter Upper Cretaceous Sand Aquifer		
Storage Capacity:	Our wells are approximately 383 feet deep and located at the Water Treatment Plant on Highway 41 South and approximately 385 feet at the Blueville Road Plant		

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Our office is open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. / closed from 12:00 - 1:00 for lunch.

The Commissioners meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the conference room at 100 East Burkhalter Avenue.

If you have questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our office during normal business hours at (229) 649-3490.

Water leaks can be reported to the Sheriff's Department (AFTER HOURS) at 229-649-3841

The Marion County Rural Water Department has completed a Source Water Assessment plan that will assist in protecting our water sources. This plan provides additional information such as potential sources of contamination. It includes a susceptibility analysis, which classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible (low) to contaminating the water source. All of the potential contaminants cited in our study area were ranked as low. The public notification has been completed and the plan has been approved by the GA EPD. A copy of the report is available in our office for review, or you may purchase a copy upon request for a nominal reproduction fee.

We routinely performs water storage facility inspections, and we utilize a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan. We have also adopted a Cross-Connection Control Program for the purpose of detecting and preventing a danger to public health from cross-connection contamination. In addition, recognizing the importance of protecting its groundwater supply, we have also developed a Wellhead Protection Program.

We work around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Please help us make this effort worthwhile by protecting our source water. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints, and waste oil.
- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

MONITORING SCHEDULE

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) allows monitoring of some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This table shows the most recent year of monitoring for these contaminant groups and the next date to be monitored.

Constituent Monitored	Date Monitored / Next Monitoring ^δ
Inorganic Contaminants	2023 / 2026
Lead/Copper	2024 / 2027
Microbiological Contaminants	Monthly
Nitrates	Annually
Radioactive Contaminants	2023 / 2026
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides and herbicides)	2023 / 2026
Volatile Organic Contaminants ^δ	2023 / 2026 & 2025 / 2026
Disinfection By-products	Annually

^δ The monitoring schedule for Volatile Organic Contaminants varies by location (water source) per the schedule set by the EPD.

LEAD & COPPER MONITORING

Monitoring requirements for lead and copper were completed in 2024. Twenty sites were sampled without exceeding the Action Level Limit for Lead or Copper. The system will continue to monitor for lead and copper every three years. The next monitoring period for the system will be the period of June – September 2027. The monitoring results in 2024 were as follows:

LEAD & COPPER (TAP WATER)								
Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	Date Sampled (mo/yr)	MCLG (What's the Goal?)	AL (Action Level)	90th Percentile Result	Range Low - High (MD)	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	Violation	Major Sources
Lead (ppb)	September 2024	0	15	1.1 ppb	ND-3.4	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)		1.3	1.3	0.0236 ppm	0.00099 - 0.046	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water.

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY SUMMARY			
TOTAL SERVICE LINES			2817
Lead	Galvanized	Non-Lead	Lead Status Unknown ***
-	-	2817	-

The complete Lead sampling data, Service Line Inventory Report, and any information on replacement plans for Lead, Galvanized, or Unknown service lines are available for review in our office at 100 East Burkhalter Avenue.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. The Marion County Rural Water Department is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time.

You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk:

- Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.
 - Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes.
 - You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.
 - If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact our office at (229) 649-3490.

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 at 800-426-4791.

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.

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 radioactive material, 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immunocompromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

Water systems also test your source water for pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) [guidelines](#) on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website www.epa.gov/safewater.

OUR RESULTS

The table below contains results from the most recent monitoring of primary, secondary, and unregulated contaminants. The monitoring was performed in accordance with the sampling requirements established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the EPD. Although many more contaminants were tested, this *only* shows those contaminants that were detected and unless otherwise noted, the results are for the calendar year of this report.

Table of Detected Contaminants						
Primary Standards - Mandatory standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act used to protect public health. These apply to all public water systems.						
Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	MCLG (What's the Goal?)	Range Low - High	Maximum Detected	Violation	Major Sources
RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS - 2023						
Gross Alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	15	0	ND - 4.7	4.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combine Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	5	0	ND - 2.4	2.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - 2023						
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0013 - 0.0056	0.0056	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.79 - 0.96	0.96	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.004 - 0.0066	0.0066	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.442 - 0.908	0.908	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] NO ₃ (ppm)	10	10	0.143 - 0.145 (2025)	0.145	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD & COPPER (TAP WATER) - 2024						
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.00099 - 0.046	0.046	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	AL=15	0	ND - 3.4	3.4	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS - 2025 »						
Chlorine (ppm)	4	MRDLG=4	1	1	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb)	80	NA	ND - 2.9	1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

» There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Secondary Standards - Non Mandatory standards established as a guideline to assure good aesthetic qualities such as taste, color, and odor. All results in this table are from 2023

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL	Maximum Detected	Major Sources
Aluminum (ppm)	0.05 to 0.2	0.252	Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives
Chloride (ppm)	250	2.12	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Copper (ppm)	1.0	0.0066	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	0.908	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Iron (ppm)	0.3	0.306	Naturally occurring in the environment; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from pipes
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	0.0042	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from pipes
pH (std units)	6.5 - 8.5	6.9	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sulfate (ppm)	250	6.03	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or as a result of agricultural runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	48	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or as a result of agricultural runoff
Zinc (ppm)	5	0.0095	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills
Alkalinity, Total (as Ca, Co ₃) (ppm)	NA	20	Naturally occurring in the environment
Calcium, as Ca (ppm)	NA	1.21	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide (ppm)	NA	17.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity (umhos)	NA	76.1	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Hardness (ppm)	NA	4.19	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Magnesium (ppm)	NA	0.283	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppm)	NA	0.0031	Result of discharge by power plants, metal factories and waste incinerators or as a result of agricultural runoff
Sodium (ppm)	NA	16.1	Naturally occurring in the environment

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - 2025

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	Average Detected	Range Low - High
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	0	ND - 1.1
Chloroform (ppb)	0	ND - 1.8
Major Sources		
Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by product of chlorination		

VIOLATION

Public Notification Rule	The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).	
Violation Type	PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	Violation Explanation
Violation Begin	10/01/2021	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
Violation End	2025	

At high levels, some primary contaminants are known to pose health risks to humans. The tables below list Drinking Water Contaminants for which the Marion County Rural Water Department routinely monitors; however, not all were detected in your drinking water. The contaminants that had some level of detection are listed in the *Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants* located on pages 2 - 3.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS - 2024

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5% present/Absent	Absent
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	present/absent	Absent
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	ND

RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS - 2024

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Beta/Photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	4.7
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	2.4

DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS - 2024

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Bromate (ppb)	10	ND
Chloramines (ppm)	4	ND
Chlorine (ppm)	4	1
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	800	ND
Chlorite (ppm)	1	ND
Total Haloacetic Acids HAA (ppb)	60	ND
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb)	80	1

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - 2023

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	0.0056
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND
Chromium (ppb)	100	0.96
Copper - source water (ppm)	1.0	0.0066

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.908
Lead - source water (ppb)	AL=15	ND
Mercury (ppb)	3	ND
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] NO ₃ (ppm)	10	0.145
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] NO ₂ (ppm)	1	ND
Selenium (ppm)	0.05	ND
Thallium (ppb)	2	ND

LEAD & COPPER TAP WATER - 2024

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected	90th Percentile Result
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	AL=1.3	0.046	0.0236
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	AL=15	3.4	1.1

ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - 2023

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	ND
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	ND
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	0.07	ND
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	5	ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	30	ND
2,4-D (ppb)	70	ND
Acrylamide (ppb)	TT	ND
Alachlor (ppb)	2	ND
Atrazine (ppb)	3	ND
Benzene (ppb)	5	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs] nanograms/L	200	ND
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	5	ND
Chlordane (ppb)	2	ND
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	100	ND
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	ND
Dalapon (ppb)	200	ND
Dibromochloropropane (ppt)	200	ND
Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate (ppb)	400	ND
Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (ppb)	6	ND

Contaminant & Unit of MSMT	MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?)	Max Detected
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	ND
Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD] (ppq)	30	ND
Diquat (ppb)	20	ND
Endosulfan (ppb)	100	ND
Endrin (ppb)	2	ND
Epichlorohydrin (ppb)	TT	ND
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	ND
Ethylene Dibromide (ppt)	50	ND
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	ND
Heptachlor (ppt)	400	ND
Heptachlor Epoxide (ppt)	200	ND
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	1	ND
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	ND
Lindane (ppt)	200	ND
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	ND
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	ND
Oxamyl (Vylate) (ppb)	200	ND
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	ND
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	1	ND
Picloram (ppb)	500	ND
Polychlorinated biphenyls (ppt)	0.5	ND
Simazine (ppb)	4	ND
Styrene (ppb)	100	ND
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Toluene (ppm)	1	ND
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT	ND
Toxaphene (ppb)	3	ND
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	ND
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	2	ND
Xylenes (ppm)	10	ND



UNDERSTANDING THE MEASUREMENTS

1 drop in 13.2 gallons of water = 1 ppm OR, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 11.5 days

1 drop in a tanker truck = 1 ppb OR, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 32 years

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

- Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system shall follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest contaminant level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment 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 of safety.
- Maximum Detected (MD)**
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.
- Millirem per year (mrem/yr):** a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- Not Applicable (NA)**
- Not Detected (ND)**
- ppb (parts per billion):** micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- ppm (parts per million):** milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppt (parts per trillion):** nanogram per liter (ng/L)
- pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** a measure of radioactivity in water.
- Threshold Odor Number (TON):** The greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that still yields a just detectable odor.
- Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.