

2024 Water Quality Report



Your water is
safe to drink
straight from
the faucet.

The Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority (NCWSA) has provided clean drinking water since 1970.

What is our water source?

- The NCWSA buys treated water from the Newton County Board of Commissioners.
- The water starts in the Alcovy River.
- It's then pumped into Lake Varner, a big lake that holds about 4 billion gallons of water.

How is the water cleaned?

- The Cornish Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP) cleans the water.
- This plant filters and disinfects up to 25 million gallons of water each day.
- This makes the water safe for about 110,000 people in Newton County.

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This report tells you
about your water's
quality, which we must
provide each year.



Este informe contiene
información muy
importante.
Tradúscalo o hable
con un amigo quien lo
entienda bien.

Why could contaminants be found in source water?

In Georgia, sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As rain, storm water runoff, and groundwater flows over land or underground on its way to our streams and rivers, 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants:** include viruses and bacteria which may come from agricultural livestock operations, septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants:** include salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants:** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can 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.



What about lead?

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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 private service lines and home plumbing. NCWSA 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.



NCWSA's 70 dedicated employees serve 28,000 customers.

Our water system has over 640 miles of pipe. End to end, that's from Newton County to Miami, Florida!

We deliver 2 billion gallons of water per year.



MG: Million Gallons

MGD: Million Gallons per Day

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 treatment technology.

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

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

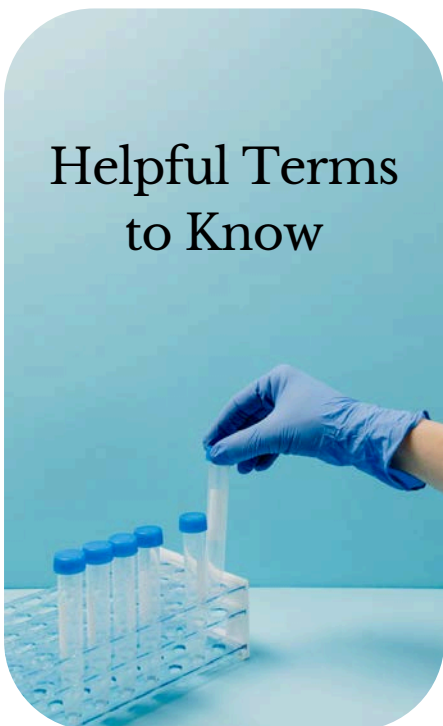
Turbidity: A measure of cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppm (mg/L): Parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is the equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

ppb ($\mu\text{g/L}$): Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is the equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

N/A: Not Applicable

Helpful Terms to Know



Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority

Cornish Creek WTF = Source of 99.48% of Water Produced in 2024 Williams Street WTF = Source of 0.52% of Water Produced in 2024

Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminants							
Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants							
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples < 0.3 NTU	0 100 %	0.27 NTU	0.03 - 0.27 NTU	None	2024	Agriculture, Geology
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	1.66 ppm	0.93 - 1.66 ppm	None	2024	Human & Animal Waste
Organic Compounds							
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	*50.0 ppb	16 - 50 ppb	None	2024	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	*35.0 ppb	14 - 35 ppb	None	2024	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	2.14 ppm	0.34 - 2.14 ppm	None	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.61 ppm	0.27 - 1.61 ppm	None	2024	Additive / Naturally Occurring
Substance	Action Level	MCLG	Newton County Water System 90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Copper	1300 ppb	N/A	61.2 ppb	0	None	2023	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	N/A	0.6 ppb	1	None	2023	Household Piping
Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Unregulated Contaminants - Substances for which EPA requires monitoring to determine where certain substances occur and whether it needs to regulate those substances.							
Bromochloroacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	6.4 ppb	3.2 - 6.4 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	6.0 ppb	2.9 - 6.0 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	0.91 ppb	0.47 - .091 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Dichloroacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	33.0 ppb	7.2 - 33.0 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Monobromoacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	0.41 ppb	0.32 - 0.41 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Monochloroacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	3.2 ppb	2.3 - 3.2 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Trichloroacetic Acid	N/A	N/A	19.0 ppb	5.6 - 19.0 ppb	None	2018	Treatment Process By-Product
Anatoxin-a	N/A	N/A	0.056 ppb	0.052 - 0.056 ppb	None	2018	These were detected during Unregulated Contaminant monitoring.
Manganese	N/A	N/A	8.4 ppb	7.3 - 8.4 ppb	None	2018	Additional contaminants were monitored and not detected.

Easy Ways to Save Water at Home



Stop the flow.

Water doesn't need to be flowing while you are busy brushing your teeth. Turn it off and save a couple gallons.

Lose the hose! Reuse those drops.

If you don't drink all the water in your glass, use it to water houseplants or flowers in the garden. Leftover ice cubes can go right into small plant pots; as they slowly melt, they will give the roots just the water they need.



Scrap the rinse! Scrape instead.

If you're cleaning up after meals, scrape food scraps into the trash before loading the dishwasher. Washing and rinsing dishes in the sink uses a lot more water than the dishwasher. Only run the washer when it's full.

Take a shower instead of a soak.

A shower uses less water than filling the bathtub; just don't stand under the spray for too long! If you shorten your shower by just a minute, it will save two gallons of water.



Don't use the toilet for trash!

Used paper towels and wipes belong in the garbage. Only flush the four P's - pee, poop, (toilet) paper, & puke. When you flush a toilet, you are using from one to three gallons of water.

Improvements Underway to Serve Our Community



A. Scott Emmons Water Reclamation Facility/Industrial Wastewater Reclamation Facility Phase 2A

An industrial wastewater treatment facility to treat and distribute reclaimed water for non-potable use by industries in the Stanton Springs Industrial Park in Social Circle, GA is under development. This will reduce potable water demand of those industries while preserving treatment capacity at the existing A. Scott Emmons Water Reclamation Facility. The Industrial Wastewater Reclamation Facility will utilize ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis to meet reuse water quality standards. This facility will have an initial treatment capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day (MGD) with expandability to 5.25 MGD.

Stanton Springs Elevated Storage Tank (EST)

A 1.5-million-gallon (MG) tank project is being constructed to support the water needs of development in the eastern portion of the county including Stanton Springs.



Awards

- Yellow River WRF Platinum Award NCWA (National Association of Water Agencies)
- Yellow River WRF Platinum Award GAWP (Georgia Association of Water Professionals)
- Scott Emmons WRF ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) Small Plant of the Year Demonstrating Excellence in Engineering
- Scott Emmons WRF2023 CMAA South Atlantic Chapter Project Achievement Award
- GFOA's (Government Finance Officers Association) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 8th consecutive year (2017-2024)
- Newton County Employer of the Year Award 2025
- Cornish Creek WTP - 2022 Georgia's Best Operated Water Treatment Facility
- 2019 Best Tasting Water - District, State, and People's Choice Winner
- 2024 Best Tasting Water - District, State, and People's Choice Winner
- Mike Hopkins, AWWA (American Water Works Association) George Warren Fuller Award



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