

2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Albany Utilities is proud of the drinking water it provides. This annual water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains much more important information about water and health. Albany Utilities will notify you immediately if there is any reason for concern about your water. We are happy to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards.

Overview: Water Source

The Albany Water System draws its water from four different aquifers. They are the Floridan, Claiborne, Clayton, and the upper Cretaceous. We use 28 wells located throughout the City and County to supply an average of 12 million gallons of water a day to our customers. This assures Albany an adequate supply for the future. A Source Water Assessment has been performed for our area to provide baseline data about the quality of water before it is treated and distributed to our customers. This is important because it identifies the origins of contaminants within our area and indicates the susceptibility of our water to such contaminants. To complete your understanding of our water supply, request a copy of this information from The Georgia Environmental Protection Division or visit website: <http://www.gaepd.org/>.

How to Read This Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant that **was detected** in our water, even in the most minute traces, is listed. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.



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"Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm 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 are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider."

Key to Table:

- AL: Action Level
- TT: Treatment Technique
- MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):

"The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety."

Treatment Technique

"A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water."

Additional Health Information

The Water Treatment Plant tested for and has not detected *Cryptosporidium*. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations established limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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:

A Microbial contaminant, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

B Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

C Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

D Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas states, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

E 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 the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Albany Utilities 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 choose 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>.

NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

Other Monitoring

In addition to testing, we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. Water is our most precious natural resource. Together we can preserve the quality of our water supply. If you notice a change in the look, smell or taste of your drinking water, please contact Albany Utilities. If you are interested in more information on the Quality Report, contact Kurt Anthony, at 229.302.1675.

Water Quality data for community water systems throughout the U.S. is available at www.waterdata.com or www.albanyutil.org.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

2022 Albany Water System Testing Results:



Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	MCL	MCLG	Highest Detected Level	Units	Range Detected	Major Sources	Violations
Chlorine	2022	MRDG = 4	MRDLG = 4	2.73	ppm	0.05 – 2.73	Water Additive used to control microbes	NO
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2022	60	No goal for the total	3.7	ppb	0 – 3.7	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Total Trihalomethanes	2022	80	No goal for the total	23.7	ppb	0.0 – 23.7	By-Product of drinking water disinfection	NO
Inorganic Contaminates	Collection Date	Highest Detected Level	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Major Sources	Violations
Fluoride	2022	0.82	0.0 - 0.82	4	4.0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2022	1.3	0 - 1.3	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminates	Collection Date	Highest Detected Level	Range Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Major Sources	Violations
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	2022	1.9	0.0 – 1.9	70	70	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	NO
Regulated Contaminant	Collection Date	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positives	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Likely Source of Contamination	Violations
Coliform Bacteria	2022	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	1		0	Naturally present in the environment	NO
Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination	Violations
Copper	07/30/2020	1.3	1.3	0.19	0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	NO
Lead	07/30/2020	0	15	3.2	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;	NO

OTHER HELPFUL WAYS ALBANY UTILITIES ASSISTS YOU

Energy Conservation Program

This program provides free home energy audits for our residential customers. Certified auditors complete a full inspection of the home checking for inefficiencies like leaking doors and below recommended insulation. For additional information and to schedule a home audit, please call (229) 883-8330 (prompt 4).

H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Pay for Energy/Essentials) The

program was developed in 1993 to assist Albany Utilities customers who could not pay their utility bills due to unforeseen circumstances. For more information on how to qualify and/or donate, please call (229) 883-8330 (prompt 4).

