Columbus Water Works

Serving our Community
Protecting the Environment

2023 Water Quality Report

for Columbus and Fort Moore, GA

*Formerly known as Fort Benning, GA

Consumer Confidence Report With
Testing Data From 2022 Calendar Year

Dear Valued Customer,

Reliable access to clean, safe drinking water is vital to our community's health and quality of life. As the drinking water provider for the Columbus and Fort Moore region, we are happy to present you with the 2023 Water Quality Report with testing data from 2022. This report provides important information about your drinking water and how it compares with federal drinking water standards determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. The information in the report can be difficult to understand without a laboratory background, and we want everyone to feel secure in the safety and quality of their drinking water. Therefore, we are displaying the data in both graph and table formats to assist in comprehension.

Know that your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all State and Federal requirements. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our employees, Columbus Water Works has never had a drinking water violation in the 120 years of serving this community. That long-standing record has led to us being recognized annually with water treatment-related awards as well as 25 years of top recognition with the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water. We intend to continue that record into the future.

If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact our Manager of Environmental Services at 706-649-3490. Thank you for trusting us to be your drinking water provider.

Sincerely,

Steve Davis

Steve Davis
President, Columbus Water Works

What is Your Water Source? The water source for Columbus and Fort Moore, Georgia is Lake Oliver and the Chattahoochee River respectively, which is surface water. Columbus Water Works operates and treats water for its customers under permit #CS2150000. The Chattahoochee River has been providing the area with a safe and dependable water supply for over 120 years.

Source Water Assessment Plan: In March 2001, Columbus Water Works (CWW) completed a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP). In 2015, a second SWAP was completed for the Ft. Moore Water Treatment Plant. In 2019, CWW completed an update to the SWAP for the North Columbus Water Resource Facility located on River Road. The purpose of updating the SWAP was to identify if there were any new potential contamination sources throughout the watershed and to determine the risks these sources pose to the water supply intakes. The overall contaminant susceptibility for Columbus and Fort Moore residents remains LOW. Some Potential Pollution Sources (PPS) include: a marina with fuel stations, sewer lift stations and pipelines, commercial and industrial areas, residential lawns, and golf courses. Columbus Water Works employs real time detection systems to ensure these potential sources do not enter our water supply.

For more information about the SWAP, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Services at (706) 649-3490 or wkent@cwwga.org

Questions about your water quality report? If you have any questions about the information in this report or would like an additional copy, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Services at (706) 649-3490 or wkent@cwwga.org.

Connect With Us!

The Facts About 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 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

a. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and/or wildlife.

b. Inorganic contaminants, such as 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.

c. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and/or residential uses.

d. 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 stormwater runoff, and/or 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, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

An Important Message from the EPA

Lead In Drinking Water: If present, elevated levels of lead in your drinking water 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. Columbus Water Works 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 running 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Immuno-compromised: 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 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 and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Other Water Contaminants: Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite too small to be seen without a microscope. It is common in surface waters like lakes and rivers, especially when waters contain a high amount of sewage or animal waste. This parasite can cause symptoms like diarrhea, nausea, stomach cramps, or all three. Because other illnesses can have similar symptoms, a special laboratory test is needed to determine if this contaminant is the cause. Columbus Water Works has sent both treated and source water samples from our system to laboratories set up for this parasite test. The water that goes into your tap has never tested positive for this parasite; however, it may be assumed that this parasite can be found in all surface water.

Key Terms to Know

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

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.

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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 contamination.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measurement of the clarity (turbidity) of water.

parts per million (ppm): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

parts per billion (ppb): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

parts per trillion (ppt): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

How Clear Is Your Water?

Did You Know? Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Meets/Exceeds Regulations

Turbidity Maximum

Dates Sampled:
January, 2022 through December, 2022

EPA Maximum Goal (MCLG)
None

Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)
TT = 1 NTU

Amount Detected in Our Tap Water
0.04

Range of Detection
0.02 - 0.15 ppm

Turbidity Percentage: 100% of the samples tested for turbidity were equal to or below 0.30 NTU, which meets the allowed limit for the selected TT.

Total Organic Carbon

Dates Sampled:
January, 2022 through December, 2022

EPA Maximum Goal (MCLG)
None

Highest EPA Allowed Level (MCL)
TT

Amount Detected in Our Tap Water
1.6 ppm

Range of Detection
1.3 - 1.8 ppm

Quick Definition: TT (treatment technique) is defined as a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Treatment techniques will vary based on the type of water contaminant being treated.

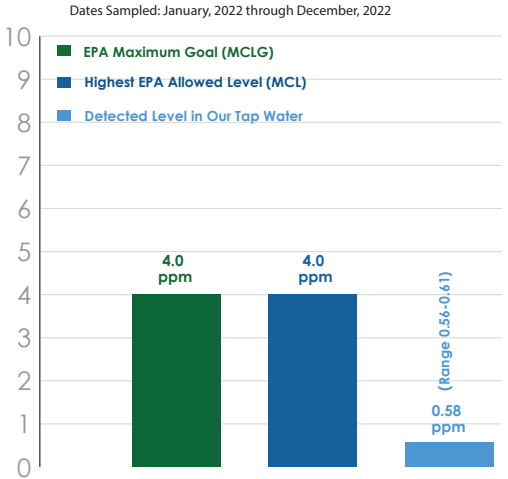
Meets/Exceeds Regulations

Did You Know?

Columbus Water Works has achieved the EPA 20-Year Directors Level Certificate with the Partnership for Safe Drinking Water! There are only 200 water utilities out of approximately 51,000 community water utilities in the U.S. who have earned this recognition.

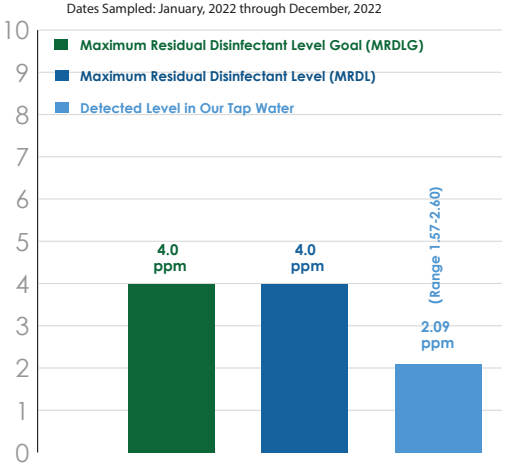
The Partnership for Safe Water is a unique cooperative effort between EPA, American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, and Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. The Partnership encourages and assists United States water suppliers to voluntarily enhance their water systems performance and improve water quality.

Fluoride



Typical Source:
Water additive that promotes strong teeth

Chlorine



Typical Source:
Water additive used to control microbes

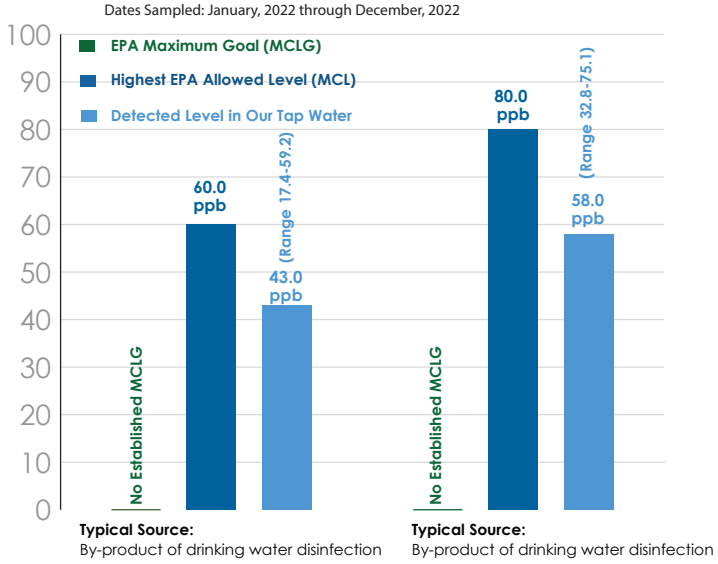
Did you know? Fluoride is found naturally in the environment.

Did You Know?

Water disinfection and treatment is considered one of the greatest public health achievements in the 20th century. In fact, the routine disinfection of drinking water dramatically decreased the number of deaths resulting from water borne diseases such as typhoid fever and cholera.

Meets/Exceeds Regulations

Haloacetic Acids

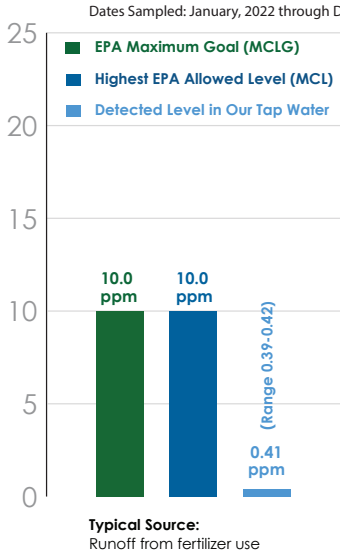


Typical Source:
By-product of drinking water disinfection

Total Trihalomethanes

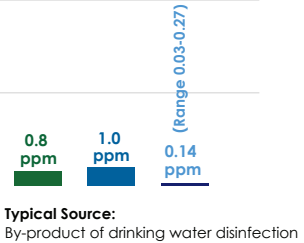
Typical Source:
By-product of drinking water disinfection

Nitrate



Typical Source:
Runoff from fertilizer use

Chlorite



Typical Source:
By-product of drinking water disinfection

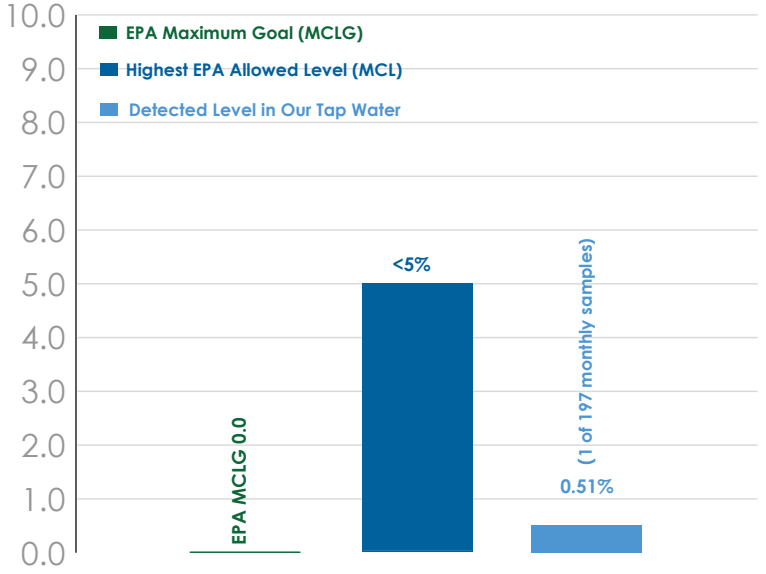
Did You Know?

Our Environmental Services department processes between 190-215 samples each month to test for Total Coliform Bacteria. This graph shows results from the month during the year with the highest level detected.

Meets/Exceeds Regulations

Total Coliform Bacteria

Dates Sampled: January, 2022 through December, 2022



Typical Source:
Naturally present in the environment

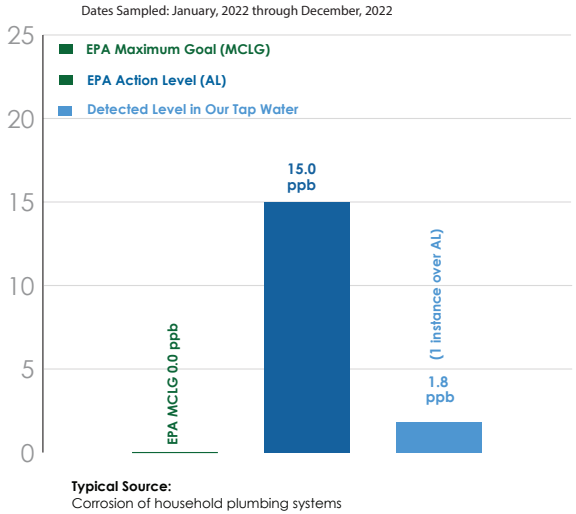
Please Note: Site was resampled and no coliform was detected.

Did You Know?

Columbus Water Works has a comprehensive corrosion control program designed to balance the water chemistry preventing deterioration within our system. For details, visit www.cwwga.org.

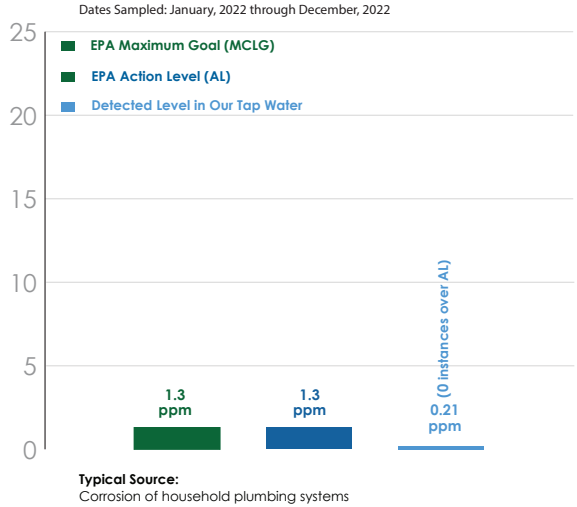
Meets/Exceeds Regulations

Lead



Typical Source:
Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Copper



Typical Source:
Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Quick Fact:

Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. However, under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap.

Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead-soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by that water is limited to safe levels.

Running the line before drinking will ensure your safety.

Please Note: Although one (1) out of 50 sites sampled tested above the action level for lead, the standard of 90 percent of test sites being within the regulated limits was met. The lead and copper rule mandates sampling every three years.

Drinking Water Analysis Table

Regulated Substance Tested and Detected	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Fluoride, ppm	4	4	0.58	0.56 - 0.61	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Water additive promoting strong teeth
Nitrate, ppm	10	10	0.41	0.39 - 0.42	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use
Chlorite, ppm	1	0.8	0.14	0.03 - 0.27	1/22 -12/22	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity, Maximum NTU	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	0.04	0.02 - 0.15	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Soil runoff
Turbidity, TT %	TT = %<= 0.30 NTU	0	100.0%	N/A	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Soil runoff
Haloacetic Acids (HAA), ppb	60	N/A	43	17.4 - 59.2	1/22 -12/22	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), ppb	80	N/A	58	32.8 - 75.1	1/22 -12/22	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon, ppm	TT	N/A	1.6	1.3 - 1.8	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria Highest Percent (percent of monthly samples positive for bacteria)	<5%	0	0.51%	1* of 197 monthly samples	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

* Site was resampled and no coliform was detected.

Drinking Water Analysis Table (continued)

Regulated Substance Tested and Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Chlorine, ppm	4	4	2.09	1.57 - 2.60	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

Lead and Copper at the Tap	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected	# of Sites Found Above AL	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Lead, ppb	15	0	1.8	1* (50 sites Sampled)	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.21	0 (50 sites Sampled)	1/22 -12/22	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Note: Detected amounts are annual averages or running annual averages.

* Although 1 site tested above the action level, the standard of 90 percent of test sites being within the regulated limits was met.

Please note: The information displayed in the "Drinking Water Analysis Table" is the same information displayed in the graphs on pages 7-11 of the booklet. To assist with comprehension of the complex data, we have provided both formats. If you have additional questions, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Services at (706) 649-3490 or wkent@cwwga.org.

Drinking Water Analysis Table (continued)

Unregulated Substance Tested and Detected	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
PFOA, ppt	None	None	6.5	4.3 - 12	1/22 -12/22	Standard not established	Man-made compound used in products and manufacturing
PFOS, ppt	None	None	5.6	<5 - 6.6	1/22 -12/22	Standard not established	Man-made compound used in products and manufacturing

PFAS is a complex group of man-made compounds that were first introduced in the 1940s. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are two PFAS compounds that are receiving the most attention today. These chemical compounds gained popularity due to their water and oil-repellent attributes. Unfortunately, these compounds do not naturally deteriorate and have therefore been given the nickname "Forever Chemicals". They can now be found in everything from our soil to our water and air.

Thanks to the heightened awareness of these chemicals, the EPA is looking to establish acceptable PFAS levels in drinking water. While CWW has consistently been well below the previous health advisory level of 70 ppt, there is no official standard set at this time. This lack of an official standard is reflected in the above table. CWW continues to work proactively with the EPA and other agencies to better understand PFAS in our drinking water and proper treatment techniques. For more information about PFAS and your drinking water, please visit our website at **www.cwwga.org**.

Your Water - By The Numbers

- **290** water professionals provide water and wastewater services 24/7/365
- We perform **120,000+** lab analyses per year
- On average, our water treatment plant cleans **31.16 million** gallons of water per day
- We monitor **25+ sites** along our local rivers and streams to help protect the health and quality of our environment
- We have served the community for over **120 years** without a water violation
- We received **23 awards** in 2022 for the monitoring, production, and distribution of your drinking water

Columbus Water Works
Post Office Box 1600
Columbus, GA 31902

Public Meeting Information:

Columbus Water Works' operations are conducted under the Board of Water Commissioners. Board Members are appointed by the Columbus Consolidated Government City Council. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings at 1:30 PM on the second Monday of each month. Please verify the meeting date on our website at: www.cwwga.org.

These meetings are open to the public. Meetings are located at:

1421 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, Georgia 31901.

Other Information Sources:

Websites with information about water quality:

www.epa.gov
www.awwa.org
www.amwa.net
www.gaepd.gov
www.cwwga.org

FSC Logo

Columbus Customers:

Columbus Water Works business office located at 1421 Veterans Parkway, is open weekdays, except for holidays:

Drive-Thru Hours: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
General Information/Emergencies (706) 649-3400

Fort Moore Customers:

If you have problems with your service, contact:

Residential: 706-685-3929
Commercial: 706-545-2232 or 706-545-2518