2025 City of Fort-Oglethorpe Water Quality Report

Georgia Water System I.D. Number GA0470001

IS MY DRINKING WATER SAFE?

The City of Fort-Oglethorpe' s water department is pleased to report that your community's water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and U.S. E.P.A. during the previous year. This 2025 water quality report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality testing during the previous year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year-round basis and are proud to provide the following information.

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 (l -800-426-4791).

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed). Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Fort Oglethorpe 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Fort Oglethorpe Public Utilities Department. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and step-s you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewter/lead.

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for GA0470001 Fort Oglethorpe:

www.gadrinkingwater.net

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.

To access the SLI for GA0470001 Fort Oglethorpe:

https://fortogov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2024-LEAD-Report-for-Fort-Oglethorpe.pdf

WATER SOURCE INFORMATION

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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

The City of Fort-Oglethorpe purchases water from two different wholesalers. The primary wholesaler is Tennessee American Water Company, which draws water from the Tennessee River and is considered a surface water source. The secondary wholesaler is Catoosa Utility District, which draws water from Yates Springs and Tennessee American Water Company and is considered a blended water source, a mixture of ground water and surface water.

WHOLESALE WATER REPORTS

A copy of the wholesaler CCR water reports can be obtained upon request at the Fort Oglethorpe City Hall.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION

The City of Fort-Oglethorpe takes great pride in the education and certification of water system operators within the company. The City of Fort-Oglethorpe has 6 certified operators employed with the city.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER,
PLEASE CALL Courtney Johnson, Director of Public Utilities at 706-866-0962

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in becoming more involved in water quality concerns within the City of Fort Oglethorpe, please feel free to give us a call at (706) 866-2544 EXT.1300. Our normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am to 5:00pm.

DEFINITIONS

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL): "The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL 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 (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a 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.

VARIANCES AND EXEMPTIONS: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ABBREVIATIONS

PPB: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter
PPM: Parts per million or milligrams per liter

WATER QUALITY DATA

TOTAL COLIFORM: Typical source of substance, naturally present in the environment. The City of Fort Oglethorpe collects 10 total coliform samples per month within the water distribution system.
In the year 2025 a total of 120 samples were collected and all 120 samples were reported as negative for any presents of coliform.

COPPER: Typical sources of substance corrosion of household plumbing systems erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives. The City of Fort Oglethorpe collects 20 copper samples per EPA monitoring period within the water distribution system.

2023 Copper Samples 20
90th Percentile 36 ppb (ug/1)
Action Level 1300 ppb
(ug/1)

LEAD: Typical sources of substance, corrosion of household plumbing system, erosion of natural deposits. The City of Fort Oglethorpe collects 20 lead samples per EPA monitoring period within the distribution system.

2023 Lead Samples 20
90th Percentile 0 ppb (ug/1)
Action Level 15 ppb
(ug/1)

Volatile Organics	Year Sampled	Violation
Haloacetic Acids ppb	2025	No
TTHM's ppb	2025	No

BASIC WATERSHEAD PRINCIPLES

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include river s, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 animal or human activity.
Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts or metal s, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, 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 also can 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

Two Internet sites that may be of interest are listed below.
1) EPA drinking water site (www.epa.gov/safewater/)
2) American Water Works Association (www.awwg.org)

The City of Fort Oglethorpe received a Late Service Line Inventory Submission Violation for 2025. For a more in-depth version of this violation, please view the Water Quality Report: https://fortogov.com/departments/public-utilities.

Definition of Terms

These are terms that may appear in your report.

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

Contaminant: Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

Hazard Index: The Hazard Index is an approach that determines the health concerns associated with mixtures of certain PFAS in finished drinking water. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in adverse health effects may pose health concerns when combined in a mixture. The Hazard Index MCL represents the maximum level for mixtures of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and/or PFBS allowed in water delivered by a public water system. A Hazard Index greater than 1 requires a system to take action.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

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. See also Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL).

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 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.

NA: Not applicable

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

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

pH: A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

parts per billion (ppb): One part substance per billion parts water; equal to micrograms per liter (µg/L)

parts per million (ppm): One part substance per million parts water; equal to milligrams per liter (mg/L)

parts per trillion (ppt): One part substance per trillion parts water; equal to nanograms per liter (ng/L)

RAA: Running Annual Average

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): An overall indicator of the amount of minerals in water.

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

%: Percent

MEASUREMENTS

Parts Per Million

in a 10 gallon fish tank

Parts Per Billion

in a 10,000 gallon swimming pool

Parts Per Trillion

in 35 junior size Olympic pools

Water Quality **Results**

Our team of experts conducts extensive sampling on the quality of your water. The tables below and on the following pages show the substances that were detected. This includes substances with drinking water limits and some that are not currently regulated. Definitions are also provided on the previous page to help you understand key terms and acronyms.

Most results come from samples collected last year. Some results are from previous years because less sampling is required if levels remain consistently low. For more information about the results included in these tables, including lead tap sampling, please contact Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at lori.stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

Special Health Information

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) or on EPA's website https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES - Collected at the Treatment Plant

Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range	Typical Source
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	Yes	10	10	0.31	0.17 - 0.31	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	Yes	0	5	1.08	1.08[1]	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	2025	Yes	0	NA	1.08	1.08[1]	Erosion of natural deposits.

[1] Only one result for 2025

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING PROGRAM - At least 50 tap water samples collected at customers' taps every 3 years

Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Range	Number of Homes Sampled	Homes Above Action Level	Typical Source
Lead (ppb)	2025	Yes	0	15	<1	<1 to 4	54	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	2025	Yes	1.3	1.3	0.073	<0.025 to 0.136	54	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Lead and Copper: Compliance is achieved when at least 90% of samples collected from water standing in contact with plumbing for at least 6 hours are below the Action Level. Complete lead tap sampling data are available for review by contacting Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at [illegible]

TURBIDITY - Monitored at the Treatment Plant								
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range detected	Lowest Monthly % of Samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	Yes	NA	TT	0.36	0.04-0.36	99.5%	Soil runoff

Turbidity: Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of water. We monitor it as an indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system. Compliance with the turbidity Treatment Technique (TT) is achieved when 95% of four-hour filtered water readings are 0.3 NTU or lower and no readings are greater than 1 NTU. We met the treatment technique for turbidity with 99.5% of the monthly samples below the lower turbidity limit.

TREATMENT BYPRODUCTS PRECURSOR REMOVAL - Collected at the Treatment Plant							
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	% Removal Required	Range of % Removal Achieved	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2025	Yes	NA	TT	25%	32.9 to 58.1	Naturally present in the environment

Total Organic Carbon: The treatment technique requirement for Total Organic Carbon was met 100% of the time in 2025.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES - Collected in the Distribution System							
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MCLG	MCL	Highest Running Annual Average	Range Detected	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2025	Yes	NA	60	28	8.9 to 43	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2025	Yes	NA	80	53	19.7 to 67	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	Yes	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.69	0.52 to 2.19	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	Yes	4	4	0.69 Avg result	0.67 – 0.71	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth: Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): Compliance based on the highest LRAA (locational running annual average) that is calculated quarterly. The highest quarterly LRAA is provided in the table. The range detected includes all the sample values in 2025. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of cancer.
Chlorine: Data represents the highest quarterly running annual average of chlorine residuals measured in the distribution system of compliance samples.

ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS OF INTEREST - Water Leaving the Treatment Facility					
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	SMCL[1]	Range Detected	Citico Water Treatment Plant Average Level	Comments
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	0.2	0.05 - 0.06	.06	Secondary Standard Limit
Calcium (ppm)	2025	NA	20 - 22	21	Hardness compound
Chloride (ppm)	2025	250	11.3 - 12	11.7	Secondary Standard Limit
Iron (ppm)	2025	0.3	<0.10	<0.10	Secondary Standard Limit
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	NA	5	5	Hardness compound
Manganese (ppm)	2025	0.05	<0.01	<0.01	Secondary Standard Limit
Ortho Phosphate (PO4) (ppm)	2025	NA	1.29 – 2.77	1.88	Corrosion Control Compound
pH	2025	6.5 – 8.5	7.1 – 7.6	7.3	pH is a measure of the acid/base properties of water
Sodium[2] (ppm)	2025	NA	7.7 - 7.9	7.8	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits: Used in water softener regeneration.
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	250	7.3 – 7.9	7.6	Secondary Standard Limit
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	500	76 - 94	85	Secondary Standard Limit
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) (ppm)	2025	NA	61 - 90	76	Soft 0 - 60 mg/L Moderately Hard 61 - 120 Hard 121 - 180 Very Hard greater than 180
Total Hardness (grains per gallon)	2025	NA	3.6 – 5.3	4.4	Naturally occurring.
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5.0	0.19 - 0.20	0.20	Secondary Standard Limit

[1]**SMCLs:** EPA has established secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCLs) as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL. For more information on secondary drinking water standards: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals#table-of-secondary

[2]For healthy individuals the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants arethosefor which the EPAhas not established drinkingwater standards. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future. Every five years, the EPA issues a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored. More information is available at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Our system participated the latest round of sampling under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The table below provides information on the unregulated contaminants that were detected in the water system under the current round of monitoring. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Lori Stenzel, Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Compliance at lori.stenzel@amwater.com or 1-866-736-6420.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING - Collected at the Treatment Plant					
Substance (with units)	Year Sampled	USEPA MCL (2029)	Citico Treatment Plant Eff		Typical Source
			Average	Range	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	2024	Hazard Index 1	6.8	3.9 to 9.5	Manufactured chemicals; used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications.
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (ppt)	2024	NA	6.4	5.0 to 8.5	Manufactured chemicals; used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications.

[1] **Hazard Index:** The Hazard Index is an approach that determines the health concerns associated with mixtures of certain PFAS in finished drinking water. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in adverse health effects may pose health concerns when combined in a mixture. The Hazard Index MCL represents the maximum level for mixtures of two or more of the following: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and/or PFBS allowed in water delivered by a public water system. For more information see: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_hazard-index_4.8.24.pdf.

U.S. EPA has established national limits for six PFAS substances that we must meet by April 2029. For more information on the U.S. EPA's PFAS drinking water standards, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

Ever Wonder Why or What About Drinking Water?

Below are short YouTube videos about watertopics. Clickon the linksto watch.

TasteandSmellofWaterExplained: https://youtu.be/a4uaaxTOWoE
SulfurSmellExplained: https://youtu.be/DX0EYWnB_ek
ChlorineinDrinkingWater: https://youtu.be/QUaIdDT7nEg
Cloudy Water Explained: https://youtu.be/uYkCcW9RE4c
ResiduefromWaterExplained: https://youtu.be/x7_pwehvgmA
Toilet Leaks: https://youtu.be/OzIrOftYgzY
LeadinDrinkingWater: https://youtu.be/xNihqfuyhaA
FluorideinDrinkingWater: https://youtu.be/g-03JCe9AjY
DiscoloredWaterExplained: https://youtu.be/W21NUWP9oa8
Whatare PFAS?: https://youtu.be/vWo0tHOVb_c

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Reporting Requirements Not Met for GA0470001 Fort Oglethorpe

We were required to develop and submit to the State, an initial Service Line Inventory that includes all service lines connected to the public water distribution system and characterize the materials of those service lines as either lead, galvanized requiring replacement, non-lead, or lead status unknown. Our system failed to submit an initial inventory of service lines to GA EPD by October 16, 2024.

Although the failure to report the initial inventory to the State does not create a risk to public health, we are required to inform you of this violation and provide additional information including what we did to correct the situation.

What Should You Do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's websites at: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water and http://www.epa.gov/lead.

What Is Being Done?

The City of Fort Oglethorpe Public Utilities Department completed the initial service line inventory and submitted it to GA EPD on 10/25/2024 and have returned to compliance as of 10/25/2024.

For more information, please contact Courtney Johnson, Director of Public Utilities 706-866-2544 Ext. 1802.

Please share this information will all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.