

**TOWNS COUNTY WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**  
**WSID#2810007**  
**1224 JACK DAYTON CIRCLE**  
**HIWASSEE, GA 30546**  
**OFFICE (706) 896-4372**  
**EMERGENCY (706) 379-3622**

**2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

This annual report will provide you with information on the standards and tests set by federal regulations to ensure water quality. It also explains the ways that the Towns County Water Authority makes sure that those standards are met or exceeded.

**About Towns County Water Authority:** The Towns County Water Authority has been supplying the people of Towns County with quality drinking water for many years. The Towns County Water Authority is overseen by the Towns County Water Board. The Towns County Water Board has monthly meetings that are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM. These meetings take place at 1224 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA 30546. Emergency meetings are called by the Towns County Water Board whenever necessary. Emergency staff members of the Towns County Water Authority are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assure consumer interests are met. We currently oversee the needs of approximately 11,600 consumers throughout the county.

**Towns County Water Authority Board Members:**

Chad Hooper, Chairman; Jamie Evans, Secretary/Treasurer; Nathan Noblet, Derrick Moody, and John Cochran; Eddy Corn, Attorney.

**Towns County Water Authority Employees:** Jennifer Nichols, Manager; Angie McNabb, Assistant Office Manager; Richard Green, Operations manager; Justin Dale, Ryan Green, Neal Moss and Ian Thompson, Operators.

**Required Health Information:** To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some 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 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 before treatment include:

**\*Microbial contaminants:** such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

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

**\*Pesticides and herbicides:** This may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

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

**\*Radioactive contaminants:** This 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 number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottles water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than are the general population. Immune-compromised 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 or appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hot-line.

**Water Quality Data:** Towns County Water Authority purchases its water as a finished product from the City of Hiawassee Water System (Rowe Canupp Water Plant). This means that the City of Hiawassee performs all tests required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). In addition to the tests that the City of Hiawassee performs on the water that you drink, the Towns County Water Authority is required to perform additional monthly total coliform bacteria tests, chlorine checks, as well as other tests not required for this report. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations (January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021). The City of Hiawassee uses the following chemicals in the treatment process: aluminum sulfate, soda ash, activated carbon, poly-phosphate, potassium permanganate and chlorine.

**Drinking Water Source:** Our water comes from Lake Chatuge, which is supplied by the Hiawassee and Hightower Rivers and their tributaries. Towns County Water and Sewerage Authority purchases their water from the City of Hiawassee who operates the water treatment plant. The City of Hiawassee’s WSID # is 2810000 and consumers can check their water quality data or keep an eye out for any alerts/spills/etc. that the City of Hiawassee may have posted. These can be checked at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com). Towns County Water Authority’s water is stored in eleven (11) tanks located throughout the county. These tanks contain a combined total of approximately 1.9 million gallons of water.

System name: Towns County Water and Sewerage Authority  
 WSID # 2810007 County: Towns  
 Source Water System – City of Hiawassee WSID #2810000  
 Reporting Period: 2021-2023 for Copper and Lead

<u>Inorganic Contaminant</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Detected</u>	<u># Above All</u>	<u>Major Sources</u>	<u>Violations?</u>
LEAD (1)	2021	ppb	AL=15	0	0	0	corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	NO
COPPER (2)	2021	ppb	AL=1300	1300	11	0	corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	NO

<u>Inorganic Contaminant</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Detected</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Major Sources</u>	<u>Violations?</u>
Chlorine Residual	Daily	ppm	4	4	1.25	1.11-1.37	Water disinfectant	NO
TTHM'S	Quarterly	ppb	80	n/a	18.8	7.9-32	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO
HAA5	Quarterly	ppb	60	n/a	26.5	16.5-33	By-product of drinking water chlorination	NO

<u>Microbiological Contaminant</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Detected</u>	<u>Major Sources</u>	<u>Violations</u>
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<b>Turbidity (3)</b>	Daily	NTU	TT=1 95% samples	n/a	0.28	Soil Runoff	NO
<b>Turbidity</b>	Daily	NTU	<0.3 No more than 5% of monthly samples	n/a	100%	Soil Runoff	NO
<b>Total Coliform</b>	Monthly	p/a		0	0	Naturally present in the environment	NO

**Table Key**

AL = Action Level

MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level

MRDL= Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

MRDLG= Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

ppm= parts per million or milligrams per liter(mg/L)

ppb= parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

p/a- presence/absence (microbial)

**Water Quality Table Footnotes**

(1) ppb of lead reported as the 90th percentile of samples taken

(2) ppb of copper reported as the 90th percentile of samples taken

(3) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator Of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

**Lead 90<sup>th</sup> percentile: 1.3 ppb (ug/L) Copper 90<sup>th</sup> percentile: 400 ppb(ug/L)**

Chlorine levels throughout our system ranges from 0.4 - 0.6 mg/l and the annual average is .5 mg/l. During 2022, Towns County Water & Sewerage Authority had no violations for the reporting year.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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).

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. We 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Although a copy of this Water Quality Report will not be mailed to each individual customer, there will be copies available by request at the Towns County Water Authority Office on Jack Dayton Circle, posted on the Post Office Bulletin Board, and Daniel's Restaurant's bulletin board.

**Community Partnership:** Maintaining a safe supply of drinking water requires everyone's vigilant efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Immediately report any problems you experience or witness to the Towns County Water Authority. Our representatives can help determine the source of the problem, such as rust in household pipes or improper disposal of some kind of contaminant. Then they can recommend a course of action or alert the proper personnel to respond to the problem.
1. When enjoying our waterways and the recreational areas around them, properly dispose of all litter, waste materials and contaminants.
2. Avoid disposing of chemicals and waste water in your lawn or yard.
3. Read and follow instructions carefully when treating your lawn and garden with pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals.
4. Practice water conservation measures.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have which may concern this report. Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com). There will be copies of this report available at the Towns County Water Authority office on 1224 Jack Dayton Circle. For more information or a copy of this report, please contact Richard Green or Jennifer Nichols with the Towns County Water Authority at (706) 896-4372. WSID# 2810007