WALKER COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
2025 Annual Water Quality Report

The Walker County Water & Sewerage Authority is pleased to report that your community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and EPA during the previous year. This 2025 Water Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the 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 enclosed information.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public board meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Walker County Water & Sewerage Authority, 4665 Happy Valley Road, Flintstone GA 30725.

Contact Information

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Brandon Whitley, General Manager, at (706) 820-1455 or Randall Haney, Water Production Superintendent, at (706) 841-4353.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment is a study, unique to each water system, which provides basic information about drinking water. Source water assessments identify the area of land that impacts the raw water used for drinking water and identifies the major potential sources of contamination. This information is used to determine how susceptible it is to potential contaminant sources. Copies of our Source Water Assessment are available upon request. To receive a copy, please contact Randall Haney at (706)-375-6603 between 9:30am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Walker County Water Treatment Plant, located in The City of Chickamauga.
Permitted to treat up to 4.5 million gallons a day.
An average of 1.843 million gallons a day are treated and pumped to the distribution.
Coke Oven Wells, located in The City of Chickamauga.
Permitted to treat 2.8 million gallons a day.
An average of 1.790 million gallons a day are pumped to the distribution.
The Kensington Wells, located in Kensington GA.
Permitted to treat 1.0 million gallons a day.
An average of 505 thousand gallons a day are pumped to distribution.
Purchased water from Tennessee American
An average of 334 thousand gallons a day.

Treatment Process

Water from the Walker County Water Treatment Plant goes through a series of steps.
Step 1: Withdrawal Process
Raw water is drawn from our water sources (ground water) located at the plant.
Step 2: Microfiltration
Water then goes through 432 Microfiltration Modules. Microfiltration (commonly abbreviated to MF) is a type of physical filtration process where contaminated water is passed through a special pore-sized membrane to separate microorganisms and suspended particles from the water.
Step 3: Disinfection Process
Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the smallest amount necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.
Step 4: Additives and Storage
Finally, fluoride (used to promote strong bones and prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (used to protect distribution pipes from scale build up) are added before the water is pumped to a sanitized water storage tank. Water from the Coke Oven Wells and the Kensington Wells do not require the filtration process.

Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 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 and metals, which can naturally occur or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, 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 can also 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.

Definitions:

AL (Action level): *The concentration of a contaminate which, if exceeded, triggers Treatment or other requirement 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 microbiological 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*

NA: *Not Applicable*

ND*: Non-Detect*

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units: *Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5NTU is just noticeable to the average person*

ppb (parts per billion): *One part substance per billion parts water.*

ppm (parts per million): *One part substance per million parts water.*

ppt(parts per trillion): *One part substance per trillion parts water*

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

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Walker County Water 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 formulas, 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 Randall Haney or Ricky Reynolds 706-841-4351. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https//www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Service line inventory Information can be found at *https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com*

Listed below are latest Lead and Copper results.

Regulated Substances

Substance (UNIT OF MEASUREMENT)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products							
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.47	.34-1.47	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]-IDSE Results (ppb)	2025	60	NA	19.98	ND-19.98	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	2025	80	NA	13.45	ND-13.45	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	2025	TT	NA	1.0	ND-1.0	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	4	4	1.16	.50-1.16	NO	Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate	2025	10	10	1.10	0.38-1.10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Barium	2025	2	2	0.65	ND-0.65	NO	Discharge of drilling waste: Discharge from metal refiners: Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	2025		NA	.12	.02-.012	NO	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025		NA	100%	NA	NO	Soil Runoff
100 % of the samples were below the TT value of 1. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.17. Any measurement in excess of 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the State.							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Tap water samples were collected for Lead and Copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.							
Substance (UNIT OF MEASUREMENT)	**Year Sampled**	**AL**	**MCLG**	**Amount Detected (90^{th} % Tile)**	**Sites above AL/total sites**	**Violation**	**Typical Source**
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	16	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	3.2	1	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

For more information on the 2025 testing results, please contact Randall Haney or Ricky Reynolds at (706) 841-4354, 9:30 AM - 4:30PM, Mon. – Fri.

Walker County Water monitors unregulated parameters to assist EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary.

Unregulated Table

Parameter	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Violation
PFBS (ppt)	2025		Not Regulated	29.60	26.5-29.60	MCL currently pending
PFOS (ppt)	2025		Not Regulated	3.85	3.39-3.85	MCL currently pending
PFOA (ppt)	2025		Not Regulated	5.11	4.8-5.11	MCL currently pending
PFHxA (ppt)	2025		Not Regulated	3.23	ND- 3.23	MCL currently pending
PFPeA (ppt)	2025		Not Regulated	4.57	3.30-4.57	MCL currently pending
PFHxS	2025		Not Regulated	1.22	1.06-1.22	MCL currently pending

LEAD AND COPPER RESULTS FOR 2025

Site Number	Lead	Copper
1	0	400
2	1.1	70
3	0	180
4	1.1	110
5	1.1	59
6	0	40
7	0	95
8	3.2	140
9	7.9	48
10	1.1	160
11	0	72
12	1.8	92
13	0	88
14	51	74
15	0	68
16	0	39
17	0	45
18	0	30
19	0	120
20	1.4	100
21	0	81
22	1.2	52
23	0	36
24	6.3	190
25	0	120
26	0	83
27	0	76
28	0	110
29	0	58
30	0	110

Purchased water from Tennessee American Water Company

REGULATED SUBSTANCES-Collected at the Treatment Plant							
Substances (with Units)	**Year Sampled**	**Compliance Achieved**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Highest Results**	**Range**	**Typical Source**
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	Yes	10	10	.31	0.17-0.31	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewerage; erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/L	2025	Yes	0	5	1.08	1.08	Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	2025	Yes	0	NA			Erosion of Natural Deposits.

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING PROGRAM- At least 50 tap water samples collected at customers' taps every 3 years									
Substances (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 system 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 system erosion of natural deposits.**

TURBIDITY-Monitored at the Treatment Plant								
Substances (with Units)	**Year Sampled**	**Compliance Achieved**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Highest Results**	**Range detected**	**Lowest Monthly % of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU**	**Typical Source**
Turbidity	**2025**	**Yes**	**NA**	**TT**	**0.36**	**.04-0.36**	**99.5**	**Soil Runoff**

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.

TREATMENT BYPRODUCTS PRECURSOR REMOVAL- Collected at the Treatment Plant							
Substances (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.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING- COLLECTED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT					
Substances (with Units)	**Year Sampled**	**USEPA MCL (2029)**	**Citico Treatment Plant Eff**		**Typical Source**
			Average	**Range**	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS) (ppt)[1]	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 concern 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 Ubdex MCL represents the maximum level for mixtures of two or more of the flowing: PFHxS, PHNA, 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

REGULATED SUBSTANCES- Collected in the Distribution System							
Substances (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	.52 to 2.19	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	Yes	4	4	0.69 Avg results	.67-0.71	Erosion of natural deposits: Water additive which promotes strong teeth: from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Halacetic Acids (HAA) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs): Compliance based in the highest LRAA (locational running annual average) that is calculated quarterly. The highest quarterly average 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 nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

Chlorine: Data represents the highest quarterly running average of chlorine residuals measured in the distribution system of compliance samples.

ADDITIONAL WATER QUAILITY PARAMETERS OF INTEREST- Water leaving the treatment facility					
Substances (with Units)	**Year Sampled**	**SMCL[1]**	**Range Detected**	**Citico Water Treatment Plant Average level**	**Comments**
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	0.2	0.05-0.06	0.6	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 (P04)(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 Moderately Hard 61-120 Hard 121-180 Very Hard greater than 180
Total Hardness (grains per gallons)	2025	NA	3.6-5.3	4.4	Naturally occuring
Zinc	2025	5.0	0.19-0.20	0.20	Secondary Standard Limit

SMCLs[1] 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.