

Town of Mitchell

(Water System ID #1250001)

Water Quality Report 2018

GA Community Water System Name: **Town of Mitchell** GA Water System ID#: **1250001**. For more information about your water or this report please call Sara Simmons at (706) 598-2004. This report details information on our water system for the calendar year 2017 unless otherwise noted.

The mayor and council meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall located at 12152 Main Street, Mitchell, GA. You are welcome to attend these meetings.

Your water comes from four municipal *groundwater* wells approximately 150 feet deep. This water source is commonly called the *Upper Floridian Aquifer* and provides ample volumes of water for our community. We perform chlorine disinfection at each of these wells to make the water biologically safe.

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 before we treat it 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 wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- * *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- * *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Why are there contaminants in my 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are 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.

Lead Specific Information:

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. The Town of Mitchell 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 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>.

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.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The Town of Mitchell routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2018 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2018. EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

The following table lists the substances detected in our water as well as EPA allowable limits. All substances listed are well within regulated limits.

| Inorganic Contaminants Table | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Parameter | MCL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
| Chlorine | 4 | 4 | .37-.55 | 2018 | NO | Water additive to control microbes |
| Nitrate/Nitrite | 10 | 10 | 2.0-3.8 | 2018 | NO | Run-off from fertilizer use. |

| Lead | AL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | #of sites found above the AL | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|------------|----|------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Lead (ppb) | 15 | 0 | 0-1.6 | 2017 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |

| Copper | AL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | #of sites found above the AL | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|-------------|------|------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Copper(ppm) | 1300 | 1300 | 22-190 | 2017 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |

| Radiation | MCL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|----------------|-----|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Alpha emitters | 15 | 0 | 3-6.44 | 2016 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits |
| RA-226/228 | 5 | 0 | <1 | 2016 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits |

| Organic Contaminants Table | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| Parameter | MRDLG | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
| Trihalomethanes | NA | 8.0-12.0 | 10.0 | 2018 | NO | By product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acids | NA | 3.5-6.5 | 5.62 | 2018 | NO | By product of drinking water chlorination |

| Other Monitoring Results | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| Parameter | MCL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
| Bromofluorobenzene | 3.65-5.75 | N/A | 4.88-5.19 | 2018 | NO | By product of drinking water chlorination |
| Dichlorobenzene | 3.74-5.78 | N/A | 4.50-5.07 | 2018 | NO | By product of drinking water chlorination |

| Microbiological Monitoring Results | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Parameter | MCL | MCLG | Town of Mitchell | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant |
| Coliform Bacteria | 1 | 0 | P | 2017 | YES | Naturally present in the environment |

Important Definitions:

- * **MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.
- * **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.
- * **AL (Action Level):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- * **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- * **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Violation

Our water system violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the period of September 2018, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Escherichia coli and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

On 9/11/2018, a routine distribution sample tested positive for Total Coliform. We were required to test our wells for Escherichia coli. We failed to do so and have received a monitoring violation.

The Town of Mitchell pledges to continue our dedication towards the safety of your drinking water. We have since taken the required sample. Samples continue to show we are meeting drinking water standards.