Since 2012, City of Thomasville Water Treatment staff have earned the Gold Award from the Georgia Association for Water Professionals (GAWP) for 100 percent compliance with all Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. In 2018, the staff exceeded these standards and earned the prestigious Platinum Award. The Platinum Award recognizes water facilities that have earned the Gold Award for five consecutive years. Of the approximately 2,600 water systems in Georgia, less than 10 percent were eligible to receive the award in 2018.

Earning both the Gold and Platinum Awards is a monumental task, as our Water Treatment staff must collect approximately thirty samples per month and conduct more than 2,190 tests per year to ensure our customers are consuming the cleanest and safest tap water possible. Congratulations to the Water Treatment staff for achieving this distinction.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.
Microbial Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Radioactive Contaminants Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Pesticides & Herbicides May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water run-off and residential uses.

Inorganic Contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production and mining or farming.

Organic Chemicals Includes 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 run-off and septic systems.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER

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

Radioactive Contaminants

Pesticides & Herbicides

Inorganic Contaminants

Organic Chemicals

WATER ANALYSIS

The Water Analysis table lists all drinking water regulated substances that were detected during 2018. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>MCLG or MRDLG</th>
<th>MCL or MRDL</th>
<th>Amount Detected</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Probable Source</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.4 - .8</td>
<td>Water Additive to Control Microbes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper*</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>AL1.3</td>
<td>AL1.3</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Household Plumbing Corrosion</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead*</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>AL0</td>
<td>AL15</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Household Plumbing Corrosion</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>.8 - .9</td>
<td>Water Additive-Promotes Strong Teeth</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No unregulated substances or contaminants were detected in 2018. *No samples exceeded the action level for copper or lead.

Parts Per Million (ppm) 1 part per 1,000,000
Parts Per Billion (ppb) 1 part per 1,000,000,000

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 microbiological contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) The highest amount of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (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 the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.
The City of Thomasville Utilities and the Georgia EPD worked together to identify any contaminants to which our water supply could be vulnerable. Examples of potential vulnerabilities include storm run-off, location of adjacent sewer lines, dumpsters and electrical transformers. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, such as immuno-compromised persons, persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. Some infants and elderly 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 Hot Line, 1-800-426-4791. A Georgia Well Head Protection Plan has been developed in order to protect our water from contamination. Copies of the plan can be obtained upon request by contacting Bob Reichert at (229) 227-3277.

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. City of Thomasville Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has not been in use for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds, up to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in your water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.