

CITY OF CAMILLA

2023 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM I.D. #2050001

The City of Camilla Utilities and Water Department employees are committed to providing our citizens and community with safe and superior quality drinking water. Our goal is to maintain your drinking water to meet or exceed State and Federal regulations for safe drinking water.



Where does this water come from? Is it safe for you and your children? This annual Water Quality Report will answer those questions for you. We will not mail each utility customer a copy of this report in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines; however, copies are available at the Customer Service Department located in City Hall and the City's website.

City of Camilla water supply customers are fortunate to have one of the finest sources of drinking water available. Our water is collected from deep in the ground and taken out of what is known as the Floridan Aquifer, the state's largest aquifer. The Floridan extends from Dawson southeast into the Atlantic Ocean. This water is deep enough in the ground that it is very unlikely to be easily contaminated as water above ground, such as lakes and rivers. Camilla has four deep wells that provide water contained in raised, clean and well-maintained water storage towers. The transfer of the water from underground to enclosed towers provides protection from contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, and other chemicals. During the collection, storage, and delivery chlorine and fluoride are added to the water. Chlorine is added for disinfection and fluoride is added to promote strong teeth.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets limits on the amount of certain contaminants (over 100 of them) allowed in drinking water provided by public water systems. The City, with assistance from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Water Quality Laboratory, performs several thousand tests annually on our water to monitor continued compliance with these regulations. Even with all of this testing, drinking water including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the 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).

WHERE DOES DRINKING WATER COME FROM?



The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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 human activity. The City of Camilla and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division have inspected the well sites for potential well hazards such as transformers, septic tanks, dumpsters, and adjacent sewer lines. A Georgia well-head protection plan has been implemented to protect our wells from these and other possible sources of contamination. A copy of the plan can be obtained at City Hall.

Contaminants that could be present in source water include:

- ▶ Microbial and biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, human sources, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- ▶ Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or a 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 runoff and residential uses.
- ▶ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban storm runoff and septic systems.
- ▶ Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. Camilla is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours it minimizes the potential for lead exposure. You can also flush 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 should have your water tested.

Information on lead in the drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

El informe contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad.

As a public utilities company, Camilla's utilities is governed by your elected members of the Camilla City Council which sits as the Board of Utilities. The public is encouraged to attend Council Meetings and a meeting schedule is available at City Hall, 30 East Broad Street and the City's website. We invite public interest in community decision-making processes affecting drinking water. If you have information or concerns about our drinking water contact City Hall at 336-2220 or any member of your City Council.

WHAT IS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

The City of Camilla's water is tested frequently for a variety of parameters to ensure our water is safe. The table below lists all drinking water substances detected during 2023. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection of public health. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Terms and abbreviations to know:

ppm=parts per million – one part per million is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000

ppb=parts per billion – one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000

MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. 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.

MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water by EPA.

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

ALG=Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

pCi/l=Pecocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

MRDLG=Maximum residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

COPPER AND LEAD

SUBSTANCE	DATE	MCLG	ACTION LEVEL	90 th PERCENTILE	# SITES OVER AL	UNITS	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper	2022	1.3	1.3	0.18	0	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2022	0	15	1.7	1	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

SUBSTANCE	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine	2023	1	1-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	1	1.3-1.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	5	5-5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

SUBSTANCE	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Fluoride	2022	0.84	0-0.84	4	4.0	ppm	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	1	0.5-1.1	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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. 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, color, or odor of drinking contact the City of Camilla Customer Service Department at (229) 336-2220.

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 systems disorders, some elderly and infants can be at particular risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and the Center for Disease Control 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).

We hope you find the 2023 Water Quality Report helpful and informative. Your comments and feedback are valued and encouraged.

