

THE CITY OF BAXLEY

2017



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

**WATER SYSTEM: (WSID) 0010000
PO BOX 290 • 282 EAST PARKER STREET • BAXLEY, GA 31513**

Spanish (Espanol)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Is my water safe?

This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains. It also compares your water to the standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with this information because our customers have the right to know about the water they drink.

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 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The City of Baxley takes its water from three deep wells. These wells are about 700 feet deep and feed from what is termed as the Floridian Aquifer. We are lucky to be able to draw from this aquifer, because it enables us to have an adequate supply of good water at a minimum cost.



Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Baxley has a Well Head Protection and Vulnerability Assessment Plan designed to assess our water requirements. Our plan was adopted on June 25, 1997 and establishes a 100 ft. parameter around each well which prohibits any type of activity that could potentially contaminate our water source.



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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff due to industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges such as oil and gas production, mining, farming, pesticides and herbicides. Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are most often by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production or may come from gas stations or urban storm water runoff. 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?



Participation and comments are always welcome. You may contact the Water Department at the Public Works Facility on 148 Copeland Street or attend a City of Baxley Council meeting. The Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 282 East Parker Street.

Administration

Tim Varnadore – Mayor
Reid Lovett – City Manager
Reba Cash – City Clerk

Council Members

Betty Livingston
Esco Hall
Pat Williams
Mickey Bass
Adam Thomas

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.



CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run you clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace.
- To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Play your part, be water smart!

Wise Water Use

Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation. (Illustration: A person watering a lawn with a sprinkler, with a 'NO!' sign over a sun and a 'YES!' sign over a cloud.)

Take shorter showers - five minutes or less is best. (Illustration: A person taking a shower with a 'Thank You' sign.)

Put faucet aerators on sink faucets. (Illustration: A faucet with an aerator being installed.)

Install new toilets that use less than 1.6 gallons per flush. (Illustration: A toilet.)

Use plants that require less water. (Illustration: A potted plant.)

Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine. Wash only full loads. (Illustration: A washing machine with an 'Energy Star' label.)

Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth. (Illustration: A person brushing teeth with a 'OFF' sign over the faucet.)

Turn off sink faucet while scrubbing dishes and pots. (Illustration: A person scrubbing a pot with a 'OFF' sign over the faucet.)

Use low flow showerhead. (Illustration: A low-flow showerhead.)

Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose. (Illustration: A hose with a shut-off nozzle.)

Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil. (Illustration: A plant with mulch.)

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and walkways. (Illustration: A broom cleaning a driveway, with a 'NO!' sign over a hose.)

Save it, or do without it!

Results of radon monitoring

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S... Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.



Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it may contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Additional Information for Lead

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 Baxley 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

	MCL	MC						
	or	TT,	Your	Range		Sample		
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MRD</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
	<u>LG</u>	<u>DL</u>						
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)	4	4	1	.9	1.5	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)(ppb)	NA	60	9.14	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	27	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.067	.063	..071	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.73	.54	.89	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (optional)(ppm)	NA		17	17	17	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	2.43	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
			Your	Sample	#	Exceeds		
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Water	Date	Exceeding AL	AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.015	2017	20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion	
Lead-action level at Consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.4	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	ND	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	ND	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
Ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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 microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

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THE CITY OF BAXLEY WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO MR. JEFF BAXLEY, FORMER CITY MANAGER AND MR. STEVE RIGDON, FORMER CITY MAYOR FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION THAT THEY HAVE SHOWN US THROUGH THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ON YOUR NEXT JOURNEY.



PLEASE HELP US WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BAXLEY FAMILY

MR. TIM VARNADORE



CITY MAYOR

MR. REID LOVETT



CITY MANAGER

MR. ADAM THOMAS



**CITY COUNCILMAN
DISTRICT 4**

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov//complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866)632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or by fax (202) 690-7442 Or email to program.intake@usda.gov.