

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Etowah Water & Sewer Authority is committed to providing excellent drinking water, wastewater treatment, and service to you, our customers, while planning and providing for the future of Dawson County.

In 2025, the year covered by this report, the water from your tap met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. This water report details where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to the standards set by the regulatory agencies.

Questions About Your Water

Source

Where does Etowah's water come from? The Etowah River is the primary source of surface water for the Etowah Water & Sewer Authority's water supply.

Contaminants

What is in our water? The sources of drinking water, both tap 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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Your Water

The Hightower Water Treatment Facility performed more than 70,000 tests in 202 to ensure our customers are receiving high quality drinking water.

The water quality data shown in the table on page 2 lists regulated drinking water contaminants monitored during the year of this report.

Precautions

Some individuals 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, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for 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 FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WATER CONTAMINANTS:

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS

such as viruses and bacteria which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic waste, water discharges, oil and gas production mining or farming.

PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES

may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

To receive additional water information, call the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at 1-800-426-4791. Georgia Water System ID Number GA0850007

Guide to the Data Table

The table below lists all the information required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. To better understand what the table tells you about your drinking water, use the tips to the right.

A&B These columns are the highest levels of each contaminant considered safe in drinking water.

C This column is the average level of each contaminant found in your drinking water during sampling by Etowah.

D This column is the range of each contaminant level found during sampling by Etowah.

Water Quality Data Table

A B C D

Regulated Substance	Unit of measure	Sample Year	MCL in mg/L	MCLG / MRDLG	Your Water	Range (low-high)	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine	PPM	2025	4	3	.94	.3 - 1.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Flouride	PPM	2025	4	3	.74	.66 - .84	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum or factories.
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	PPM	2025	.08ppm/	.08	.043	.04 - .05	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Organic Carbon	PPM	2025			.72	.5 - 1.1	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity	NTU	2025	.30 NTU		.03	.02-.30	No	Soil runoff—a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
Copper	PPM	2025	AL=1.3		.02	0-1.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	PPM	2025	AL=.015		0	0.00-.015	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosions of natural deposits.
Halocetic Acids		2025				.0046-.0054	No	By product of drinking water disinfection.

WATER TERMINOLOGY

Action Level (AL):

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

Parts per Million (PPM):

One part substance per million parts water

Nephelometric Turbidity (NTU):

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

Treatment Technique (TT):

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 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 microbial contaminants.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Turbidity:

A measure of the cloudiness of the water and a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

YOUR WATER IS AWARD WINNING

Hightower Water Treatment Facility

*Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Platinum Award*

*Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Water Fluoridation Award*

Dawson Forest Water Reclamation Facility

*Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Platinum Award*

S.W.A.P Source Water Assessment Plan

The Etowah Water & Sewer Authority completed a source water assessment which is a study and report itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies and provides the following:

1. Delineation of the water supply watershed for our drinking water intake.
2. Development of an inventory of potential contamination.
3. Determination of the susceptibility of drinking water to identified potential sources of contamination.
4. Increasing the public involvement in and awareness of drinking watershed concerns.

Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory

On October 8th 2024, the EPA issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) also require more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold requiring communities to take action to protect people from lead exposure in water. In addition, the final rule improves communication within communities so that families are better informed about the risk of lead in drinking water, the location of lead pipes, and plans for replacing them. **Etowah Water & Sewer Authority has never had lead pipes in its water distribution and transmission system.** Etowah Water & Sewer Authority conducted an inventory of the service line from the water main to the meter and again from the meter to the house on private service lines. Based on that inventory, in accordance with the guidelines provided by EPA, **we found no lead service lines or connections in our system.** More information can be obtained at <https://gadinkingwater.net/DWWPUB/>

Effects of Lead in Water Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant women, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Etowah Water & Sewer Authority 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 for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, 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 Hightower Water Treatment Facility Superintendent, Mike Silvers at 706-265-3395. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

