



2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Fort Valley Utility Commission Water Quality Excels

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is committed to providing customers with safe, healthy, and reliable supply of high quality drinking water. Water tests conducted over the past year using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures show that Fort Valley's water continually meets or surpasses state and federal standards for drinking water. This annual water quality report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and other information.

Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water (A Message from Craig Mims, General Manager)

We are pleased to report to you that the drinking water supplied by the Fort Valley Utility Commission is safe. Drinking water in Fort Valley consistently exceeds safe drinking water health standards. As health scientists learn more about our environment and the effect of substances in the environment on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water. Fort Valley continues to add new technology in order to be able to meet further standards. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources pass over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials and can pick up substances relating to the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water:

- Biological - may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources
- Inorganic - can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides - may come from agriculture, storm run-off or residential use.
- Organic chemicals - may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials - can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Where does our water come from?

The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets its water from the Tuscaloosa aquifer, which is approximately 500 feet below the surface. This aquifer has, so far, provided the City with a safe and dependable supply of water even in the driest years. For information on the Well-Head Protection Plan, contact the Utility Commission's Water Plant at (478) 825-5482.

Treatment Process:

The water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding sodium hydroxide. Fluoride is added to help prevent dental cavities. Phosphate is added to enhance corrosion control.

What is in our water?

More than 7,500 tests are conducted annually at the Fort Valley Utility Commission's Drinking Water Lab. These tests monitor tap water for micro-organisms, minerals, and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for contaminants, including coliform bacteria, metals, nitrates, and pesticides.

The water in the distribution system is tested on a regular basis. Five water system samples are collected each week. A total of twenty samples are tested each month as required by the EPD to ensure that the drinking water is safe for consumption.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with State and Federal regulations. **The table on the next page lists only the regulated substances that were found. Our test results are below the levels allowed by EPA in public drinking water.**

Terms and Abbreviations:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level 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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.
- **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.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- **N/A:** not applicable
- **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.
- **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
- **(dw):** Drinking water.
- **(a):** Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million (see definition of PPM).
- **(b):** Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. However under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead-soldered copper lines, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.

Drinking Water Analysis

Substances Tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Amount Detected	Is it safe? (Does it meet standards?)	Probable Source
Fluoride (a)	PPM	4	4	0.84	Yes	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Copper (b)	PPB	1,300	AL = 1,300	250	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (b)	PPB	0	AL = 15	2.5	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Substance Tested & Detected	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection (Report Year)	Is it safe? (Does it meet standards?)	Source
Chlorine	PPM	4	4	0.69	0.46 – 1.12	Yes	Water additive used to disinfect drinking water

Additional Lead 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 Fort Valley Utility Commission 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite that is common in source water. Cryptosporidium can cause symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and/or stomach cramps. Cryptosporidium has never been found in the drinking water that goes to your tap.

Notice to Immuno-compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people (such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some older adults and infants) can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about the drinking water from their healthcare providers.

EPA and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/drink.

Additional Testing and Research

The EPA has required the Utility Commission and hundreds of U.S. water systems to participate in a major testing program Information Collection Rule (ICR). The ICR is intended to provide EPA information about the occurrence of chemical by-products used in disinfecting, plus information about disease-causing pathogens (microorganisms). The data on how public water supply systems control the chemical by-products and pathogens will be used to revise drinking water standards.

Additional Information Sources:

Web sites with information about water quality: www.epa.gov/ow www.awwa.org www.gaepd.org www.amwa.net

Please join us in making our decisions.

We encourage and invite public interest and participation in the decision-making that affects drinking water. The Fort Valley Utility Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at City Hall in downtown Fort Valley located at 204 West Church Street. The Fort Valley Utility Commission business office is open daily except for weekends and holidays. Lobby hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Customer Service telephone number is (478) 825-7701, option 3. The Drinking Water Quality Lab, and emergency after hours, telephone number is (478) 825-5482.