

# Annual Water Quality Report

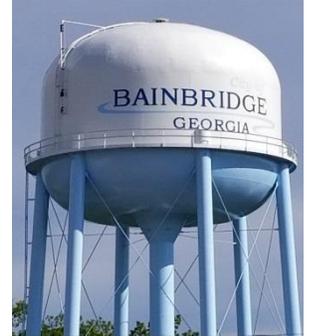
Reporting Period: January – December 2017

Date of Report: June 2018

WSID #: 0870001 \_ Permit #: 043-0003 \_ Laboratory #: 302 \_ Source: Groundwater

*This report is being published for you as a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.*

*The City of Bainbridge Water Department is pleased to report that your community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and Environmental Protection Agency during the previous year. This 2017 Water Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing gathered from water quality during the previous year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis and are proud to provide this information for your review. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact The Drinking Water Lab at between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., or Barry Ladner at (229) 248-2014 Monday through Friday.*



## OUR WATER SYSTEM

Safe drinking water is one of our most precious natural resources. Most of us don't think much about where our drinking water comes from or how it's made safe to drink. At the City of Bainbridge Utilities, we work hard every day to protect and maintain our community's water system and we're proud our water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water requirements. Providing you with safe drinking water is one of our responsibilities we take seriously.

## YOUR WATER SOURCE

Your drinking water comes from a ground water source known as the Floridan Aquifer. The Aquifer lies below a confining layer of clay that protects the water from contamination. The Floridan Aquifer stretches 100,000 square miles beneath Florida, and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. There is an estimated one quadrillion gallons of freshwater in the aquifer (that's 15 zeros)!

## YOUR WATER PROFESSIONALS

The City of Bainbridge Utilities staff tests your water daily and in the course of a year we perform thousands of tests on a variety of parameters to ensure our water is safe. We continue to receive excellent reports from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

## TESTING FOR QUALITY

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 also 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, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic:** Contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides:** May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemicals:** Includes synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants:** Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## WATER ANALYSIS

The following table lists all the drinking water regulated substances detected during 2017. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. No unregulated substances were detected during the reporting period.

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

| <i>Substance</i> | <i>Unit</i> | <i>Highest Level Allowed (MCL)</i> | <i>Ideal Goal (MCLG)</i> | <i>Highest Level Detected</i> | <i>Safe Range</i> | <i>Likely Source</i>   | <i>Violation</i> |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| Copper*          | ppm         | AL 1.3                             | 0                        | 970 UG/L                      | Yes               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching of wood preservatives | No               |
| Flouride*        | ppm         | 4                                  | 1.0                      | 1.25 MG/L                     | Yes               | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilization and aluminum factories      | No               |
| Nitrate          | ppm         | 10                                 | 5                        | 4.4 MG/L                      | Yes               | Runoff from fertilizers; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits             | No               |
| Lead*            | ppm         | AL 15                              | 0                        | 3.4 UG/L                      | Yes               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits                                 | No               |

## ORGANIC CONAMINANTS

|        |     |      |          |           |     |                                   |    |
|--------|-----|------|----------|-----------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|
| TMH*** | ppb | 12.0 | 8.0-12.0 | 11.8 UG/L | Yes | By-product of water disinfectants | No |
|--------|-----|------|----------|-----------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|

## CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

|               |     |   |     |          |     |                              |    |
|---------------|-----|---|-----|----------|-----|------------------------------|----|
| Free Chlorine | ppm | 4 | 1.0 | 1.0 MG/L | Yes | Drinking water disinfectants | No |
|---------------|-----|---|-----|----------|-----|------------------------------|----|

\*\*\* Trihalomethane: Decafluorobiphenyl SS

\* **The Lead and Copper Rule** of 1994 mandates a household testing program for these substances. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Most recent test of lead and copper was performed with 2016 cycle, and the next scheduled testing will be with the 2019 cycle. Of 30 sites tested in the City of Bainbridge, no sites exceeded the action levels of lead and copper monitoring. Lead, a metal found in natural deposits, is commonly used in household plumbing materials and water service lines. The greatest exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. But lead in drinking water can also cause a variety of adverse health effects. In babies and children, exposure to lead in drinking water above the action level can result in delays in physical and mental development, along with slight deficits in attention span and learning disabilities. In adults, it can cause increases in blood pressure. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. However, new homes are also at risk: even legally "lead-free" plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures, which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water.

\*\* **Fluoride** is added to the drinking water to help in the prevention of dental cavities in children.

### Definitions:

*Action Level (AL):* the concentration of a contaminant that is exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must implement.

*Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:* the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

*PPM:* parts per million (or milligram per liter) correspond to one penny in \$10,000.

*PPB:* parts per billion (or microgram per liter) correspond to one penny in \$10,000,000.

### Additional Information About Your 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the Georgia EPD website at [www.gadrinkingwater.net](http://www.gadrinkingwater.net).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that might 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.

### Notice to Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those 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 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).

