2025 Water Quality Report

City of Covington Water Department

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System ID# CP2170001

City of Covington Surface Water to Tap

Have you ever had water that had a dissatisfactory color, odor or taste? You would wonder if it was safe to drink, wouldn't you? At the City of Covington, we understand that you expect only the best water that is pleasing to sight and smell and guarded against pathogens. Two water sources supply water for two treatment facilities that produce a blended water for customers. Lake Varner, an 820 acre reservoir is the source water for Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility. Cornish Creek WTF is an up-flow clarification facility permitted for 25 MGD (Million Gallons per Day). Ninety-Nine percent of the water produced in 2025 came from Lake Varner. Williams St. WTF is a conventional plant capable of producing 4.0 MGD. Its source of water is the Alcovy River. Water is pumped from the Alcovy River to City Pond Reservoir where it gravity flows or is pumped to Williams St. WTF. Contaminants and potential pollution sources in the watershed are identified in a source water assessment plan. A source water assessment plan for the Alcovy River watershed has been completed. The overall susceptibility of the watershed was rated medium. The greatest potential threat to source water quality is agricultural waste ponds and secondary paved roads. The recommendations from the plan will ensure that citizens served by the City of Covington will be provided the best quality water in the future.

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The source 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-occuring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or 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 occuring or 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which 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 bottle water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. 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 city of Covington 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 the 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Newton County Water System (for City of Covington)

Cornish Creek WTF = Source of 99.30% of Water Produced in 2025
Williams Street WTF = Source of 0.70% of Water Produced in 2025

Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminants

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants							
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples < 0.3 NTU	0 100 %	0.34 NTU	0.03 - 0.34 NTU	**None**	2025	Agriculture, Geology
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	1.70 ppm	0.90 - 1.70 ppm	**None**	2025	Human & Animal Waste
Organic Compounds							
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	* 41 ppb	25 - 41 ppb	**None**	2025	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	* 38 ppb	26 - 388 ppb	**None**	2025	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	2.22 ppm	0.59 - 2.22 ppm	**None**	2025	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.27 ppm	0.37 - 1.27 ppm	**None**	2025	Additive / Naturally Occurring

Substance	Action Level	MCLG	Newton County Water System 90th Percentile	Detected Range	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Copper	1300 ppb	1300 ppb	61.2 ppb	1.70 - 309 ppb	0	**None**	2023	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	0 ppb	.60 ppb	0 - 57.3 ppb	1	**None**	2023	Household Piping
Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)								
PFBA	Unregulated	N/A	* 0.0092 ppb	0 - 0.0092 ppb	0	None	2023	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources in association with the production of these PFAS
PFPeA	Unregulated	N/A	* 0.0153 ppb	0 - 0.0153 ppb	0	None	2023	
PFHxA	Unregulated	N/A	*0 .011 ppb	0 - 0.011 ppb	0	None	2023	
* Unregulated = USEPA, in 2024, set MCL's for PFOA, PFOS at 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) and PFHxs, PFNA, HFPO-DA at 10.0 (ppt) for compliance beginning in the year 2027								

* The Newton County Water Resources Lead Service Line Inventory can be found on the Newton County website as well as https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drinking-water

DEFINITIONS

- **MG:** Million Gallons
- **MGD:** Million Gallons per Day
- **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.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Turbidity:** A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- **ppm** or **mg/L**: Parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is the equivalent of one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.
- **ppb** or **ug/L:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is the equivalent of one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.
- **N/A:** Not Applicable

CRYPTO-WHO?

Cryptosporidium

[Krip'-to-spor-id-e-um]

Found in lakes, rivers and streams, cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that can cause diarrhea or acute gastrointestinal disorder if ingested. It's common in surface water, very difficult to kill and even a well-run water system may contain cryptosporidium. Outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis have occured in the US and abroad. Proper coagulation, sedimentation and filtration can effectively remove cryptosporidium from water. Ultra-violet light and ozone also have proven to be effective against crypto.

2025 CCR Supplemental Lead and Copper CCR Information
For (GA CP2170001 City of Covington Water System)

Required Lead Language: *Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Covington Water System 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 water 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 Tim Smith (770) 385-2137 City of Covington Water System Coordinator. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

Lead and Copper Range Data.

Analyte	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Range		Units	Violation
				Low	High		
Lead	2023	0	15	0	57.3	ppb	none
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	1.7	309	ppb	none

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for City of Covington Water System, here is the link: **(https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com)**

The Service Line Inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all public water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead and protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water.

To access the SLI for The City of Covington Water System here is the link:

(https://ga-epd.120water-ptd.com)