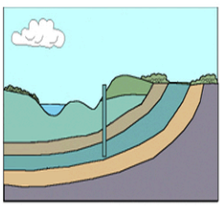
2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT
WILMINGTON ISLAND SYSTEM

The City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department is pleased to report that your drinking water, supplied by the Wilmington Island System, is safe. To learn more about safety regulations and testing, see the table included in this report.

SOURCE



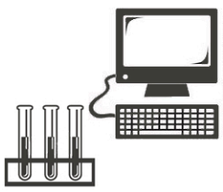
Drinking water for the Wilmington Island System comes from deep underground, from the Floridan Aquifer. It is drawn from 4 wells between 340 and 576 feet deep. These 4 wells pumped approximately 1.35 million gallons per day, supplying 13,526 customers in 2016.

The City of Savannah has been proactive in protecting this pristine drinking water source through responsible management and a State approved Wellhead Protection Plan and Water Conservation Plan.

TREATMENT

Water pumped from the Floridan Aquifer is very pure. For treatment we add a disinfectant during distribution and fluoride to promote dental health.

TESTING



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency regulates the amounts of certain substances allowed in public drinking water. The City of Savannah performed over 135,000 tests and procedures, on over 160 water quality parameters in 2016 to ensure you receive safe, high quality drinking water.

DISTRIBUTION

This clean, safe, drinking water is then distributed to your home. The City of Savannah provides some of the highest quality, lowest cost drinking water in the Southeast.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Water Supply and Treatment Department
(912) 964-0698
24-Hour Emergency Line
(912) 351-3434
Billing Information
(912) 651-6460
Water Conservation & Education
(912) 651-2221

Environmental Protection Agency
Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1 - 800 - 426 - 4791
www.epa.gov/ow

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City of Savannah government works under the direction of City Council and the City Manager. The City Council meets every other Thursday at 2pm at City Hall (2 E. Bay St.) These meetings are open to the public.

Water Conservation

The City of Savannah encourages residents to conserve water to help protect this precious natural resource. To learn more about water conservation programs such as free water saving toilets and water conservation kits for residents, visit www.savannahga.gov or call (912) 651-2221.

All customers must follow the outdoor watering schedule:

No watering between 10am and 4pm.
Even numbered residences water Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Odd numbered residences water Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.
To report violations call 311.

TAP WATER VS. BOTTLED WATER

All sources of drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources are fed by water that passes over the land or through the ground, dissolving naturally occurring minerals and materials, or picking up substances along the way. These substances may include:

-- Biological substances from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources
--Inorganic substances from stormwater runoff, industrial sources, or wastewater discharges
--Insecticides and herbicides from agriculture, stormwater runoff or residential use
--Organic chemicals from industrial or domestic processes, stormwater runoff, or septic systems
--Radioactive materials that can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities

The difference is in how they are regulated. Your tap water is much more stringently regulated-- it is tested hundreds of times a month for over 100 different contaminants. Bottled water, on the other hand, is only required to be tested once a week for some substances. Higher levels of at least 13 contaminants are allowed in bottle water than tap water. And tap water providers are required to share their quality in reports such as this one, and to notify the public if a potentially dangerous contaminant is found. Bottled water providers are not required to provide the public with this information.

If you drink the recommended 8 cups of water a day of tap water it will cost you $0.50 a year. The same amount of bottled water will cost $1,400 a year. That's 3000x the price for a less safe product!

DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS
WILMINGTON ISLAND SYSTEM

The City of Savannah Water Laboratory performed more than 135,000 tests and procedures, on over 160 water quality parameters, during 2016 to ensure water quality. The City has met all sampling and reporting requirements.

Substance tested and detected	Chlorine	Fluoride	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	Total Haloacetic Acids (THAAs)	Total Coliform Bacteria	Lead	Copper
Probable Source	Added to water for disinfection	Added to water for dental health; erosion of natural deposits	Byproduct of water chlorination	Byproduct of water chlorination	Naturally present in the environment	Corrosion of household plumbing	Corrosion of household plumbing
Amount Detected	2.20 ppm	1.0 ppm	28.3 ppb	3.9 ppb	1 sampe positive	1.1 ppb	0.078 ppm
Meets Drinking Water Standards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level Goal The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health	4 ppm						
Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level Allowed 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	4 ppm						
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, allowing for a margin of safety.		4 ppm	0 ppb	0 ppb	0	0 ppb	1.3 ppm
Maximum Contaminant Level Allowed The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. This level is set as close to the goal is feasible using the best available treatment technology.		4 ppm	80 ppb	60 ppb	Presence of coliform bacteria in >1 of monthly samples		
Action Level The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow						15 ppb	1.3 ppm
Range of Detection	0.44-2.20 ppm	0.37-1.0 ppm	Not detected - 28.3 ppb	Not detected - 3.9 ppb		No sample greater than action level	No sample greater than action level

Units: ppm = parts per million or 1 in 1,000,000. ppb = parts per billion or 1 in 1,000,0000,000

Copper and lead are the only two substances monitored at the customer's tap.

Fluoride was last sampled in 2015.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

	Molybdenum	Strontium	Chromium
Amount Detected	0.56 ppb	373 ppb	0.013 ppb
Range of Detection	0.39-0.77 ppb	338-388 ppb	Not detected - 0.076 ppb

The EPA selected the City of Savannah to participate in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 3 (UCMR 3) program. Participants in UCMR3 are required to publish the results of the analysis of these unregulated contaminants. For more information on the contaminants of UCMR 3, please contact US EPA or GA Environmental Protection Division.

If you have any questions regarding safe drinking water regulations or these test results, you may contact the City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department at (912) 964-0698

HEALTH INFORMATION: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 healthcare providers.

EPA/Center for Disease control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risks of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**

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 Savannah is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials usedin plumbing fixtures. 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 have concerns 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 at 1-800-426-4791 OR AT www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**