What's on Tap in Alto, Georgia

CCR - Consumer Confidence Report

Water Quality Report 2020

It is the goal of the Alto Water Department to supply clean potable water to the residents of Alto and the surrounding communities. During the 2020 year, the Town has continued to seek new water sources to fulfill the water needs of a growing community. We have completed the drilling of a new well for future use and demand.

The following report lists and explains the chemicals found in our water and how the state regulates them. You can be sure that your water is always safe and any chemicals are maintained below the state allowable levels.

How Safe Is Our Water

The Water Department is committed to providing our customers with a clean and reliable source of drinking water. The water was tested for over 50 different contaminants, which resulted in no violations. If you have any questions about the water quality or water service you can contact the Licensed Operator, Donald Wade, at 706-778-8035

Safety

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation, which limits the amounts of certain contaminants found in drinking water. The Town of Alto submits samples of the water once a month for total Coliform bacteria, fecal Coliform and E. Coli. The samples are taken at different locations throughout the water system.

Treatment

The water, which serves the Alto Water System, comes from nine different wells scattered throughout the system. The wells are at depths ranging from 280' to 620' deep. The water is treated daily with chlorine with a desired residual of no less than 0.2 or no more than 1.0 anywhere in the system.

Contaminants and Health Risk

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.

Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer or 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 risks of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline 1-800-426-4791.

Public Input

The Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Town City Hall. Public questions and comments are welcomed at this meeting.

Notes on Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottle water) include rivers, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring materials, and in some cases, radioactive material can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agriculture, livestock operations, wildlife and sewage treatment plants.

Inorganic Contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil or gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. It can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants such as radon which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil or gas production and mining activities.

Definition of Abbreviations and Terms

PPM - Parts Per Million gallons

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG allows for a margin of safety.

Water system #1370000 - Period Covered: Year 2020

Parameter (Primary Inorganic Substances)	(SMCL) MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Violation	Major Source of Contamination
Fluoride	4.0	4.0	0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additives which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury Liquids ICP-MS	2.0	2.0	1.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; and cropland
Nitrate/Nitrite	10	10	1.5	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Fluoride - Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Health Effects Language - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 PPM is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care providers.

Lead- 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 Town of Alto Water System 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 or on the internet @ http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.