

The City of Tuscaloosa is pleased to provide this Annual Water Quality Report to you. This report provides information on the sources of our water, the results of our tests, and important information about water and health.

The sources of drinking water (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 radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 water run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. Amended in 1996, the SDWA added provisions for consumer involvement and right-to-know. The Consumer Confidence Report or Annual Water Quality Report is the centerpiece of public right-to-know in the SDWA. This report provides consumers the detected amounts of contaminants, sources of contamination, and plain language definitions.

The amendments recognized that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

STATEMENTS ON LEAD IN WATER

The City of Tuscaloosa is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead is rarely found in source water. It is primarily from corrosion of materials that were used in older plumbing, solder that connects pipes, or from pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street. Lead is no longer used in manufacturing these products, but older plumbing components still remain in some older homes. When water sits for several hours in these older pipes lead can leach into the water.

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. The EPA and the CDC make the following recommendations:

- *Never use warm tap water to mix baby formula.* Use only water from the cold tap for drinking and cooking.
- Before using any tap water for drinking or cooking, flush your water system by running the tap on COLD for 1–2 minutes. Flushing can minimize the potential for lead exposure.
- Periodically remove the aerator on the tip of the faucet and wash out any debris such as metal particles.
- Boiling water will NOT reduce lead in water.

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 your family's exposure is available from the [Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead), or at the EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

PLAIN LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

To help you better understand the terms use in this report, please note the following abbreviations and definitions:

- AL** - Action Level; the level of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- ca** - coliform absent
- cfu** - colony forming units
- DBP** - disinfection byproducts
- MCL** - maximum contaminant level
- MCLG** - maximum contaminant level goal
- MRDLG** - maximum residual disinfectant level goal
- MFL** - million fibers per liter; longer than 10 micrometers
- MRDL** - maximum residual disinfectant level
- mg/l** - milligrams per liter; equivalent to parts per million
- mrem/yr** - millirems per year; a measure of radiation
- NTU** - nephelometric turbidity unit; turbidity units
- NA** - not applicable
- ND** - not detected
- ppb** - parts per billion; equal to micrograms per liter
- ppm** - parts per million; equal to mg/L (milligrams per liter)
- ppq** - parts per quadrillion
- picograms/l** - picograms per liter
- pCi/L** - picocuries per liter; a measure of radiation
- ppt** - parts per trillion; equal to ng/L or nanograms per liter
- S.U.** - standard units; a measure the water's pH
- TT** - treatment technique; process to reduce contaminant
- µg/L** - micrograms per liter; equal to parts per billion
- V&E** - variances & exemptions

The City of Tuscaloosa's Mayor and Council

- Walt Maddox, Mayor
- Matthew Wilson, District 1
- Raevan Howard, District 2
- Norman Crow, District 3
- Lee Busby, District 4
- Kip Tyner, District 5
- John Faile, District 6
- Cassius Lanier, District 7

The Tuscaloosa City Council meets every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Tuscaloosa City Hall, 2201 University Boulevard. The Tuscaloosa News publishes the agenda for each meeting, and The City of Tuscaloosa posts the agenda on the website www.tuscaloosa.com. You may contact the City Clerk for more information at (205) 248-5011.

AWARD-WINNING WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

In 2022, the Jerry Plott Plant received the Best Operated Plant Award for plants producing 10.1 – 20 MGD from the Alabama Water Pollution Control Association.

In 2020, the City of Tuscaloosa was awarded the Water Fluoridation Quality Award by the CDC. This is awarded to water treatment plants that achieved optimal fluoridation levels for all 12 months of the year.

In 2019, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, (ADEM), recognized the Ed Love Water Filtration Plant for achieving optimized performance goals. To win this award, plants must exceed the US EPA requirements by a factor of three or more for the entire year.

Please join us in thanking the staff of the City of Tuscaloosa Water Treatment Plants for their dedication to ensure that customers receive the best possible water quality.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Water Billing Office Turn On/Turn Off

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
205- 248-5500
Drive Thru: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lakes Division

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
205- 349-0279

Tuscaloosa 311 Call Center

Operational Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Dial 311 Within City Limits or Call 205-248-5311

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or by visiting EPA's website www.epa.gov/safewater.



Kimberly Michael
Executive Director

2023 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Testing Performed January - December 2022



Ed Love Water Filtration Plant
1125 Jack Warner Parkway North East
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404-1056
Telephone 205-248-5630



Jerry Plott Water Filtration Plant
2101 New Watermelon Road
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406
Telephone 205-248-5600

www.tuscaloosa.com/city-services/water/water-treatment

For Additional Information Contact:
Ethan Hicks, Process Assets Director

