

The City of Brunswick is proud to announce that the water provided to its customers meets all environmental requirements of the state and federal governments.

Water is a basic need for life. Without it, life could not exist. Most people depend on public water supplies for their drinking water. Even though only a small portion of water sold is used for drinking and cooking, all the water produced and distributed must be of high quality—good enough for human consumption. We all depend on our water supply to be protected from contaminants that could threaten our health.

The water for the City of Brunswick system comes from deep underground. The source is a porous limestone structure called the Upper Floridan Aquifer. There are eight wells drilled into the part of the limestone that is carrying the water. The wells range in depth from 750 to 1050 feet, with half of them between 800 to 850 feet. The wells pumped an average of 4.9 million gallons per day in 2003.

Water with high levels of chloride from deeper in the earth moving upwards is threatening water quality in the Brunswick peninsula. Ancient brine has been pulled upwards and has contaminated a large portion of the aquifer in the Brunswick Area. The City of Brunswick Water and Wastewater Department has made modifications to the well at the Perry Park Water Plant due to chloride intrusion and is considering drilling a well into the Brunswick Aquifer (a Miocene age aquifer) as an alternate source of water for the Perry Park Water Plant.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources has performed a Ground Water Source Vulnerability Risk Assessment. The report, dated June 16, 1999, is available in the Office of the Director of the Water and Wastewater Department.

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, persons 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 lesson the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and 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 byproducts 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 which 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.

If you have any questions about this water quality report or would like additional information about the water system, please use the information below to contact the Office of the Director. The office is located on the second floor of City Hall in downtown Brunswick. The main contact for information is the Assistant Director, William C. Francis.

The City Commission has regularly scheduled meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Requests to be on the agenda for a specific meeting must be submitted to the City Manager's Office no later than close of business one week before the scheduled meeting. The agenda will be available the Monday before the meeting.

City of Brunswick Water/Wastewater Department

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Water Provided by the City of Brunswick Meets or Exceeds Georgia EPD Standards

2003 Water Quality Report

Issued May 2004



City of Brunswick
Water/Wastewater Department

Tel: 912.267.5509

Brunswick Water Quality Tables

Substance Tested and Detected	Unit	Goal (MCLG)	Maximum (MCL)	Amount Detected (Range)	Is it Safe? (Does it meet standards?)	Probable Source
Regulated Substances						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	28.0	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform (bacteria)		0	<5%	0	Yes	Bacteria naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present
Fluoride (a)	ppm	4	4	0.6—1.7	Yes	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead (2002)(b)	ppb	0	AL=15	0—10	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (2002)(b)	ppb	1,300	AL=1,300	0—150	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Barium	ppb	2,000	2000	51—63	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Unregulated Substances						
Chloride(c)	ppm	250 Recommended	N/A	30—55	Yes	Geologic—from lower water bearing zones

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).

How to Read the Water Quality Tables

Word, Acronym, Symbol or Note	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
ppm	Parts per million: One unit (by weight) out of one million of the same unit, such as milligrams per liter.
ppb	Parts per billion: One unit (by weight) out of one billion of the same unit, such as micrograms per liter.
<	Less than.
(a)	Fluoride is added to mix with naturally occurring fluoride in the water to bring the average concentration to the EPA optimum level of one part per million.
(b)	Water provide by the City of Brunswick does not contain lead or copper. The EPA requires that water be tested at the customer's tap to detect lead and copper that may have dissolved into the water from pipes or solder containing lead or copper.
(c)	Chloride is covered under secondary standards; EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply. High value resulted in the Perry Park well being taken out of service immediately. There were no known incidents of taste complaints.

Data shown in tables represents January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003, unless otherwise noted.