

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](http://www.tuscaloosa.com). You may contact the City Clerk for more information at (205) 248-5011.

### ED LOVE WATER PLANT RECEIVES THE OPTIMIZATION AWARD

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

**Distribution Division Line Breaks/Leaks**  
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
205- 248-5950

**Tuscaloosa 311 Call Center**  
Operational Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Dial 311  
Calling 311 connects you to all non-emergency City Services

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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).



Jarrod Milligan  
Executive Director

## 2022 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Testing Performed January - December 2021



**Ed Love Water Filtration Plant**  
1125 Jack Warner Parkway North East  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404-1056  
Telephone 205-248-5630  
Fax 205-349-0213



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

For Additional Information Contact:  
Kimberly Michael  
Associate Director

## THE SOURCE OF OUR DRINKING WATER

Lake Tuscaloosa is our primary source for drinking water. It is a 5,885-acre impoundment of North River and several other creeks. It holds over 40 billion gallons of excellent quality water.



Our Great Lake!



The City of Tuscaloosa developed a Source Water Assessment that assists in protecting our water sources. This plan provides information such as potential sources of contamination. It classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contaminating the water source. For further information regarding the Source Water Assessment, please call or come by our Business Office at 2230 6th Street.

## OUR WATER TREATMENT PROCESSES

The Ed Love Water Filtration Plant and the Jerry Platt Water Filtration Plant supply water to nearly 200,000 customers in the metropolitan Tuscaloosa area. These facilities operate 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Ed Love Plant has the capacity to treat 45.7 million gallons/day.

The Jerry Platt Water Filtration Plant can treat 14 million gallons/day. Each plant utilizes the basic five steps of treatment: coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination. The speed of treatment and the chemicals used to accomplish the five steps differ somewhat for each plant. The biggest difference in the two plants is in the filtration step.

The Ed Love Water Treatment Plant utilizes conventional filtration consisting of two layers of filter media. An 18-inch layer of anthracite coal sits on top of the filter and helps trap organic material and dirt. The second layer of 12 inches of torpedo sand traps dirt and protozoans. The sand is similar to the sand found on many beaches around the world. What makes this sand special is its high degree of uniformity, which allows the sand to pack together tightly, increasing the filter's effectiveness. Water filters by gravity.

The Jerry Platt facility utilizes pressure to squeeze water through membranes made of Polyvinylidene Fluoride, PVDF. This lightweight plastic polymer is formed into long hollow tubes. The hollow tubes have an appearance reminiscent of spaghetti. The water molecules pass through the filter and collect in the hollow center of the fibers. Dirt, pathogens, organic material, and bacteria are left on the outside of the fibers. After filtration, the water receives a dose of chlorine in the form of sodium hypochlorite. This chemical is commonly known as bleach. The water goes to a storage tank called a clear well. This tank gives the chlorine time to disinfect the water before it is pumped to the distribution system, and our customers. Facilities in our distribution include:

Water Mains in service, 4" and larger	705 Miles
Water storage tanks	13
Water storage capacity	25.4 Million
Water booster pump stations	10
Public fire hydrants	3780

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE NUMBER 4

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) required water systems serving more than 10,000 people to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants over a three-year span. The chart below contains the results for monitoring in 2018 and 2020, which were our assigned sampling periods.

UCMR 4 CHEMICALS			
Analyte	MCL	Level Detected	
Germanium	0.3 ppb	ND	
Manganese	0.4 ppb	ND	
Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane	0.01 ppb	ND	
Chlorpyrifos	0.03 ppb	ND	
Dimethipin	0.2 ppb	ND	
Ethoprop	0.03 ppb	ND	
Oxyfluorfen	0.05 ppb	ND	
Anatoxin-a	0.03 ppb	ND	
Cylindrospermopsin	0.09 ppb	ND	
Total Microcystins	0.30 ppb	ND	

## DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, and we are pleased that we have met or surpassed water quality standards set by the EPA and the ADEM.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

WATER QUALITY REPORT								
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER PARAMETERS								
WATER SOURCE LAKE TUSCALOOSA								
<b>DETECTED CONTAMINANTS</b>								
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Period Covered: 12 Months Ending December, 2021	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level in Distribution System	Range of detections	Violation (Year/ No)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Total Coliform Bacteria				Presence of total coliform bacteria in <5% of the 120 required monthly samples	Coliform Present in 0.50% of samples in one month	Not detected - 0.50 %	No	Naturally present in the environment
In 2021, 2 of 2475 samples were positive for Total Coliform or 0.08%.								
Total Organic Carbon	mg/L	TT	N/A	1.9	1.1-1.9	No	Naturally present in the environment	
Turbidity	NTU	0.3	N/A	0.683	0.011-0.683	No	Soil Runoff - Turbidity can interfere with disinfection	
Chlorine as Cl <sub>2</sub>	mg/L	4	4	2.8	0.2 - 2.8	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Chlorine Dioxide as ClO <sub>2</sub>	mg/L	0.8	0.8	0.56	0.05 - 0.56	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Chlorite as ClO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	mg/L	1	1	0.740	0.340 - 0.730	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	0	0.073+0.498	-0.328 +0.540 - 0.073+0.498	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Fluoride as F <sup>-</sup>	mg/L	4	4	0.90	0.02- 0.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories	
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	mg/L	10	10	0.29	<0.10 -0.29	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Sulfate as SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	mg/L	50	50	33.9	12.7 - 33.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits.	
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Period Covered: 12 Months Ending December, 2021	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average Level in Distribution System	Range of detections	Violation (Year/ No)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Haloacetic Acids	µg/L	60	N/A	49.2	19.0 - 98.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
The sum of Dibromoacetic, Dichloroacetic, Monobromoacetic, Monochloroacetic, & Trichloroacetic Acids annual average MCL equal to or less than 60 µg/L.								
Total Trihalomethanes	µg/L	80	N/A	49.2	0.0 - 100.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
The sum of Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane & Bromoform annual average MCL equal to or less than 80 µg/L.								
<b>LEAD AND COPPER PRIMARY MONITORING</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Period Covered: 12 Months Ending December, 2021	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level in Distribution System	Range of detections	Violation (Year/ No)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Lead as Pb	mg/L	AL= 0.015	0	0.007	<0.001 - 0.007	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper as Cu	mg/L	AL= 1.3	1.3	5.8	<0.001 - 5.8	No	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	
There were no violations, more than 90% of samples were below the action level. Only one copper result was above the action level. The resampled copper result was 0.012 mg/L.								
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>								
<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>								
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations								
Period Covered: 12 Months Ending December, 2021	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level in Distribution System	Range of detections	Violation (Year/ No)	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Bromodichloromethane	µg/L	N/A	N/A	2.70	1.50- 2.70	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination	
Chloroform	µg/L	N/A	N/A	16.1	5.70 - 16.1	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination	
Dibromochloromethane	µg/L	N/A	N/A	<1.00	<1.00 - <1.00	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination	

## PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Below is a list of *Primary Drinking Water Contaminants* for which our water system routinely monitors. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

WATER QUALITY REPORT							
TABLE OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER PARAMETERS MONITORING PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2021							
WATER SOURCE LAKE TUSCALOOSA							
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>				<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>			
Analyte	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Analyte	MCL	Highest Level Detected		
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	0.50%	Beta / Photon Emitters	4 mrem / yr	N/A		
Turbidity	<0.3 NTU	0.683	Alpha Emitters	15 pCi/L	0.673+0.456		
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>				<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>			
Antimony as Sb	6 ppb	ND	Endrin	2 ppb	ND		
Arsenic as As	10 ppb	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND		
Asbestos*	7 MLF	N/A	Glyphosate	700 ppb	ND		
Barium as Ba	2 ppm	0.024	Heptachlor	400 ppb	ND		
Beryllium as Be	4 ppb	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	200 ppt	ND		
Cadmium as Cd	5 ppb	ND	Hexachlorobenzene	1 ppb	ND		
Chromium as Cr	100 ppb	ND	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50 ppb	ND		
Copper as Cu	AL=1.3ppm	5.8	Lindane	200 ppt	ND		
Cyanide as Cn	200 ppb	ND	Methoxychlor	40 ppb	ND		
Fluoride as F <sup>-</sup>	4 ppm	0.9	Oxamyl (Vydate)	200 ppb	ND		
Lead as Pb	AL=15 ppb	0.007	PCB's	500 ppt	ND		
Mercury as Hg	2 ppb	ND	Picloram	500 ppb	ND		
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	10 ppm	0.29	Simazine	4 ppb	ND		
Nitrite as NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	1 ppm	ND	Toxaphene	3 ppb	ND		
Selenium as Se	50 ppb	ND	Benzene	5 ppb	ND		
Thallium as Tl	2 ppb	ND	Carbon tetrachloride	5 ppb	ND		
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>				<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>			
Chlorine	4 ppm	2.8	2,4-D	70 ppb	ND	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene 100 ppb ND	
Chloramines	4 ppm	N/A	2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	50 ppb	ND	Dichloromethane 5 ppb ND	
Chlorite	1 ppm	0.740	Acrylamide	TT	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane 5 ppb ND	
Chlorine Dioxide	800 ppb	0.56	Alachlor	2 ppb	ND	Ethylbenzene 700 ppb ND	
Bromate	10 ppb	N/A	Atrazine	3 ppb	ND	Ethylene dibromide 50 ppt ND	
Total Organic Carbon	TT	1.9	Benzo(A)pyrene	200 ppb	ND	Styrene 100 ppb ND	
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	100	Carbofuran	40 ppb	ND	Tetrachloroethylene 5 ppb ND	
Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	98	Chlordane	2 ppb	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene 70 ppb ND	
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>				<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>			
All results meet or surpass Federal Drinking Water Regulations							
Dibromochloropropane	0.2 ppb	ND	Dalapon	200 ppb	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane 200 ppb ND	
o-Dichlorobenzene	600 ppb	ND	Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400 ppb	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane 5 ppb ND	
p-Dichlorobenzene	75 ppb	ND	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates	6 ppb	ND	Trichloroethylene 5 ppb ND	
1,2-Dichloroethane	5 ppb	ND	Dinoseb	7 ppb	ND	Toluene 1 ppm ND	
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7 ppb	ND	Diquat	20 ppb	ND	Vinyl Chloride 2 ppb ND	
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70 ppb	ND	Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD]*	30 ppq	ND	Xylenes 10 ppm ND	
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100 ppb	ND	Endothall	100 ppb	ND		