

FAQ's

1. **Is my water safe to drink?**

Yes! The Laboratory goes throughout the water system and collects over 185 bacteria and other quality control samples a month to make sure the water is safe. The water treatment operators and the laboratory analysts work as a team to insure that the drinking water meets or accedes all EPA and Georgia EPD water quality standards.

2. **How much Fluoride does my water have?**

The normal range for Fluoride in Columbia County's drinking water is .7 – 1.2 mg/L. Fluoride is added to our drinking water to help baby's teeth. Did you know that ground or well water has a trace of fluoride naturally? The range is 0.0 – 0.2 mg/L in the CSRA area.

3. **Where does my drinking water come from?**

Columbia County's drinking water is pulled from either the Savannah River or the Clark Hill Reservoir. Most of our drinking water is pulled from the Savannah River and is treated at our Point Comfort Water Treatment Facility. Their maximum daily rate is 31 MGD (Million Gallons a Day). The Clark Hill Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating a daily maximum of 8 MGD.

4. **How often is my drinking water tested?**

The water is tested about 40 times every 2 hours from both Water Treatment Plants (That's about 480 times a day, or 14,400 times a month, or 172,800 times a year). The Central Laboratory runs at least 80 Bacteria tests, 80 Chlorine tests, and over 25 other quality control tests per month on the drinking water throughout the county. (That's over 2,220 tests a year). Therefore, the drinking water for Columbia County is tested approximately 175,020 times a year.

5. **Why does my water sometimes look dirty?**

The waters from the Savannah River and Clark Hill Reservoir have Manganese and Iron mineral salts in them. Trace amounts of these minerals pass through the filter systems at our treatment facilities. These trace amounts sometimes build up inside the water pipes at different locations. When the water pressures in the pipes go up or down, the mineral deposits are pulled off the walls causing the water to have a dirty brown, or rusty orange color. A mineral deposit the size of a dime can cause a whole houses water supply to look dirty. This doesn't cause health problems, but who wants to drink or bath in dirty looking water? If your water looks dirty just call the water office at (706) 863-6928 and they will promptly clean the mains in your area.

6. **Why does my water smell like pool water?**

When your drinking water has a smell of chlorine or Clorox, it is usually because the chlorine level is to low. Some people can smell the chlorine in their water if the level goes below a 0.3 mg/L. Most people can also smell chlorine when it is above 2.5 or 3.0 mg/L.

7. **Why is Chlorine added to my drinking water, and how much is in there?**

There are many disease causing organisms in natural raw waters, and without adding a disinfecting agent such as chlorine, the water would not be safe to drink. Columbia County's drinking water has 0.2 - 2.0 mg/L Free Chlorine in it.

8. **Is my water Hard or Soft?**

Columbia County's water is very soft. The Hardness is less than 25 mg/L as CaCO_3 .