City of
Helen Water System
2023 Water-Quality Report
Water System ID # GA 3110001

The City of Helen Water System is pleased to present a summary of the quality of water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

The City of Helen Water System is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting our drinking water. Regularly scheduled City Council meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at City Hall. Any comments are welcomed; please contact us at The City of Helen – 25 Alpenrosen Strasse – Helen, GA 30545 or (706) 878-2733.

Water Source

The City of Helen's water system is supplied by a system of six ground water wells located in the Crystalline Rock aquifer. The water from the wells is treated with chlorine for disinfection, fluoride for prevention of tooth decay, and orthophosphate as a corrosion inhibitor prior to entering the distribution system. The City completed a Wellhead Protection Plan in 2007 with EPD. A copy of this report can be obtained at City Hall. The City also maintains a connection to the White County Water Authority's system which obtains water from the Cathy and Turner Creek watershed.

How to Read This Table

The chart in this report provides representative analytical results of water samples, collected in 2023 (unless otherwise indicated) from the City of Helen's water system. Please note the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: 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.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which triggers treatment or other requirement, which a water system must follow.

Volatile Organic Contaminant	Date	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected (Highest)	Range	Major Sources	Violation?
TTHMs								
City of Helen	Quarterly	ppb	80	0	51.7	0-56.9	Byproduct of disinfection	NO
White County Water	Quarterly	ppb	80	0	46.9	19.9-46.9		NO
HAA5s								
City of Helen	Quarterly	ppb	60	0	31.98	0-39	Byproduct of disinfection	NO
White County Water	Quarterly	ppb	60	0	26	1.3-26		NO
Inorganic Contaminants	**Date**	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detected**	**# > AL**	**Major Sources**	**Violation?**
Copper[1]								
City of Helen	2021	ppb	AL=1,300	1,300	140	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	
White County Water	2022	ppb	AL = 1,300	1,300	340	0		NO
Lead[2]								
City of Helen	2021	ppb	AL=15	0	0	0		
White County Water	2022	ppb	AL=15	0	1.7	0		NO
Fluoride						RANGE		
City of Helen	Daily	ppm	4	4	0.76	0.70-0.80	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive	NO
White County Water	Daily	ppm	4	4	0.79	0.39-1.22		NO
Nitrate							Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage: Erosion of natural deposits.	
City of Helen	2023	ppm	10	10	0.09	0-0.35		NO

Chlorine Residual								
City of Helen	Daily	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	1.72	1.55-1.97	Water disinfectant	NO
White County Water	Daily	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	1.86	0.54-2.89		NO
Microbiological Contaminants	**Date**	**Units**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Detected**	**Range**	**Major Sources**	**Violation?**
Turbidity						100% of samples <0.3	Soil runoff	
White County Water	Continuous	TT	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	0.05	NTU		NO
Total Organic Carbon	Date	Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Range	Major Sources	Violation?
White County Water	Monthly	TT	TOC <2.0	N/A	TOC < 2 ppm	0.7-1.0	Naturally present in Environment	NO

Water-Quality Table Footnotes

1 ppb of copper is reported as the 90th percentile of samples taken.
2 ppb of lead is reported as the 90th percentile of samples taken.

Table Key

AL = Action Level, the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 as possible to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter

TT = Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

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

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer 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 risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water

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 City of Helen 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 at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

If you have any questions please contact the City of Helen's Public Works Director, Jack Morgan at (706) 878-2733. Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com. A copy of this Water Quality Report is available at City Hall. This report contains water quality information from the City of Helen's water system (WSID 3110001).

Este informe contiene information muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.