

**2026 Annual Water Quality Report
(Testing Performed January through December 2025)**

Fort Payne Water Works Board

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The Fort Payne Water Board is proud to report to the public on the quality of water we have distributed in the past year. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the surface water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water Source	Allen Branch Reservoir and Big Wills Creek Reservoir (Surface Water)	
Number of Customers	8,900 service connections (population served – 29,100)	
Water Storage	Nine finished water tanks and two raw water tanks	
Treatment Techniques	Disinfection, coagulation, settling, granular activated carbon filtration. Fluoride is added to the finished water to promote dental health	
Interconnections	Northeast Alabama Water District ,Valley Head Water, and Chattooga County Water	
Water Board	Terry Camp, Chairman	Wade Hill, Member
	Dana Goggans, Vice Chairman	Steve Malcom, Member
	Tony Dobbs, Secretary	
Management Team	Brandon Light, Executive Director	Derrick Templeton, Distribution Supervisor
	Deanna Frasier, Office Manager	Ezra Dean, Water Plant Manager
	Nick Lea, Assistant Manager	

Source Water Protection

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), The Fort Payne Water Board has developed a Source Water Assessment plan that will assist in protecting our water sources. This plan provides additional information such as potential sources of contamination. The susceptibility to each contaminant was evaluated and determined jointly with representatives from ADEM and the Fort Payne Water Works Board. Review of all three sources resulted in a Low Susceptibility Rating. The Source Water Assessment is updated every 4 years. The public can review this document at the Fort Payne Water Board main office. Copies may be obtained for a small reproduction fee.

Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by doing what you can to protect our source water. Please call in any leaks you observe and keep a close eye on any suspicious activities if they occur around your water system. The Fort Payne Water Board is continuously working for our customers to improve the safety of the water. We have also been replacing old infrastructure throughout the system so our customers can rely on having clean water form the water treatment facility straight to the tap.

Information about Lead

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. A Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory was completed in 2024 and can be reviewed at the Fort Payne Water Board Main Office. Fort Payne Water Works Board 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.

Use *only* water from the cold water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. The two actions recommended above are very important to the health of your family. They will probably be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your house, not from the local water supply. If you are concerned about the 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 www.epa.gov/safewater.

General Information

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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.

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 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 run-off and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by the public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immune-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 from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Your source water is tested for pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* have not been detected in our finished drinking water.

Questions?

Fort Payne Water will be able to cover and fix any problems that may arise in all areas of our system. Please contact Fort Payne Water at 256-845-0449 during business hours for any billing questions or issues. For emergencies after hours, call 256-845-7248. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality and the services provided by Fort Payne Water. If you want to learn more, please call our water office or attend any of our regular scheduled meetings. The Fort Payne Water Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at 153 20th ST NE in Fort Payne.

More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Monitoring Schedule and Results

Fort Payne Water Works Board *routinely* monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not change frequently.

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.

Constituents Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2025
Lead/ Copper	2024
Microbial Contaminants	current
Nitrates	2025
Radioactive Contaminants	2021
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	2023
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2023
Disinfection Byproducts	2025
UCMR5 Contaminants	2023-2025
PFAS Contaminants	2024

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in that water.

DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminants	Violation (Y/N)	Levels Detected	Unit Msmt	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	N	1.72-2.95	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity	N	.082	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0	Present /Absent	0	Presence in <5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other bacteria may be present
Barium	N	.0163	ppm	2	2	Drilling and metal refinery discharge; erosion
Copper	N	<0.0005	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; wood preservative leaching
Fluoride	N	.236	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for teeth; fertilizer and aluminum factory discharge
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	.739	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; septic and sewage leaching; erosion
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	65.9	ppb	0	80	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids)	N	30.7	ppb	0	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	N	57	ppb	70	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Bromodichloromethane	N	7.82	ppb	0	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agriculture runoff
Secondary Contaminants						
Aluminum	N	.0273	ppm	n/a	0.2	Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives
Chloride	N	10.1	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Hardness	N	134	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
pH	N	7.7	S.U.	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	N	6.64	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sulfate	N	3.68	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment; erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	N	161	ppm	n/a	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff

Definitions

Action Level- the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for a water system

ADEM- Alabama Department of Environmental Management

AWPCA- Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association

Coliform Absent (ca)- laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs)- form when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/ or natural organic matter present in the source water. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite.

EPA- Environmental Protection Agency

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)- the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)- 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.

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

Micrograms per liter (ug/L)- equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms

Milligrams per liter (mg/L)- equivalent to parts per million (ppm)

Millirems per year (mrem/yr)- measure of radiation absorbed by the body

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)- a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person

Non-Detects (ND)- laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment

Parts per billion (ppb)- equivalent to micrograms per liter. One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per million (ppm)- equivalent to milligrams per liter. One part per million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq)- equivalent to picograms per liter. One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt)- equivalent to nanograms per liter. One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water

Running Annual Average (RAA)- yearly average of results at each specific sampling site

Standard Units (S.U.)- pH of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases and is affected by temperature and carbon dioxide gas. Water with less than 6.5 could be acidic, soft, and corrosive. A pH greater than 8.5 could indicate that the water is hard.

Treatment Technique (TT)- a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) The Department or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions

At the end of this report is the *Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants*, plus some Secondary and unregulated contaminants for which our water system routinely monitors. These contaminants were not detected in your drinking water unless they are listed in the *Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants*.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt
Bacteriological Contaminants			trans- 1,2- Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present/absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli	0	present/absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Fecal Indicators (enterococci or coliphage)	0	present/absent	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalates	6	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calc.organisms/l	Dinoseb	7	ppb
Radiological Contaminants			Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	30	ppq
Beta/Photon Emitters	4	mrem/yr	Diquat	20	ppb
Alpha Emitters	15	pCi/l	Endothall	100	ppb
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endrin	2	ppb
Uranium	30	ppb	Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
Inorganic Chemicals			Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Antimony	6	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt
Arsenic	10	ppb	Glyphosate	700	ppb
Asbestos	7	MFL	Heptachlor	400	ppt
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt
Beryllium	4	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Cadmium	5	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Lindane	200	ppt
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Cyanide	200	ppb	Oxamyl (Vydate)	200	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	500	ppt
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Mercury	2	ppb	Picloram	500	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	Simazine	4	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	Styrene	100	ppb
Total Nitrate and Nitrite	10	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
Selenium	5	ppb	Toluene	1	ppm
Thallium	2	ppb	TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	TT	TT
Organic Contaminants			Toxaphene	3	ppb
2,4-D	70	ppb	2,4,5-TP (silvex)	50	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	70	ppb
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,1,1- Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Atrazine	3	ppb	1,1,2- Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Benzene	5	ppb	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAHs)	200	ppt	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb			
Chlordane	2	ppb			
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts		
Dalapon	200	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	1000	ppb	Chloramines	4	ppm
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
1,2-Dichloroethan	5	ppb	HAA5 (total haloacetic acids)	60	ppb
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	TTHM (total trihalomethanes)	80	ppb
cis- 1,2- Dichloroethylene	70	ppb			
LIST OF SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS					
Alkalinity, Total (as CA, CO3)	Copper	Manganese	Specific Conductance		
Aluminum	Corrosivity	Odor	Sulfate		
Calcium, as Ca	Foaming Agents (MBAS)	Nickel	Total Dissolved Solids		
Carbon Dioxide	Hardness	pH	Zinc		
Chloride	Iron	Silver	Sodium		
Color	Magnesium				
LIST OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
Aldicarb	Chloroethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	Propachlor		
Aldicarb Sulfone	Chloroform	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	N-Propylbenzene		
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Chloromethane	Isopropyltoluene	Paraquat		
Aldrin	O-Chlorotoluene	p-Isopropyltoluene	1,1,1,2- Tetrachloroethane		
Bromoacetic Acid	P-Chlorotoluene	M-Dichlorobenzene	1,1,2,2- Tetrachloroethane		
Bromobenzene	Dibromochloromethane	Methomyl	Tetrachloroethene		
Bromochloromethane	Dibromomethane	Methylene Chloride	Trichloroacetic Acid		
Bromodichloromethane	1,1-Dichloroethane	Methyl tert-butyl ether	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene		
Bromoform	1,3- Dichloropropane	Metolachlor	Trichloroethane		
Bromomethane	2,2-Dichloropropane	Metribuzin	Trichlorofluoromethane		
Butachlor	1,1- Dichloropropene	MTBE	1,2,3-Trichloropropane		
N-Butylbenzene	1,3- Dichloropropene	Naphthalene	1,2,4- Trimethylbenzene		
Sec-Butylbenzene	Dicamba	1-Naphthol	1,3,5- Trimethylbenzene		
Tert-Butylbenzene	Dichlorodifluoromethane				
Carbaryl	Dieldrin				

UCMR5: Every five years the EPA issues a new list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by some public water systems (PWSs). The monitoring results may provide a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) required PWSs serving more than 10,000 people to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants over a three-year span, 2023-2025. The following table shows the UCMR5 contaminants for which we tested and the results of our monitoring.

Unregulated Contaminants Rule 5 (UCMR5) Contaminants		
Contaminant	Unit Measurement	Level Detected
Lithium	µg/L	<9.00

PFAS: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not yet established primary drinking water MCLs for PFAS substances. Below is a list of PFAS contaminants for which our system monitored in 2022 and the results of that monitoring. PFAS was not detected in our drinking water.

PFAS CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	Unit Msmt	Level Detected	Contaminant	Unit Msmt	Level Detected
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluoroheptanoic Acid	ppb	ND
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid	ppb	ND
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorononanoic Acid	ppb	ND
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	ppb	ND
N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	ppb	ND
N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorotridecanoic Acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorodecanoic Acid	ppb	ND	Perfluoroundecanoic Acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorohexanoic Acid	ppb	ND	Total PFAS	ppb	ND
Perfluorododecanoic Acid	ppb	ND			

For more information on PFAS contaminants, please refer to www.epa.gov/pfas.

Method: EPA 533 - Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water

Analyte	Result	Qualifier	RL	Unit	D	Prepared	Analyzed
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	<0.0050		0.0050	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	<0.0040		0.0040	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	<0.0040		0.0040	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	<0.0020		0.0020	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid (ADONA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid (PFHpS)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	<0.0040		0.0040	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid (PFPeS)	<0.0040		0.0040	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA)	<0.0050		0.0050	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid	<0.0020		0.0020	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	<0.0050		0.0050	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (4:2 FTS)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2 FTS)	<0.0050		0.0050	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecane sulfonic acid (8:2 FTS)	<0.0050		0.0050	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid (NFDHA)	<0.0200		0.0200	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid (PFMPA)	<0.0040		0.0040	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid (PFMBA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33
Perfluoro (2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid (PFEESA)	<0.0030		0.0030	ug/L		01/16/24 10:21	01/17/24 10:33