

Town of Pittsboro

Water Treatment Plant

3746 Hwy 15-501 N

919-542-3530



Town of Pittsboro Water Operators Mission Statement

- To be responsible to the community we serve while producing safe and pleasant drinking water. Additional accountability in operating, maintaining and repairing and managing the town's water plant. Utilizing all resources wisely. Upholding all standards set by the town board, state agencies and the EPA. Working together as a unified team for the greater good of those we serve.

Water Storage:

- Pittsboro has four storage tanks a million gallon ground storage tank. Chatham Forest Standpipe with a 500,000 gallon capacity, and Horton Tank with a 200,000 gallon capacity. A clear well at the water plant that holds 450,000 gallons. The pipes through out town hold another 740,000 Gallons, for a total of 2,890,000 gallons of storage capacity for the town.

Million Gallon Tank



Chatham Forest Standpipe



Horton Tank



Water Source

Haw River





The Water Plant

- Located on Hwy 15-501 north was built in 1964. It is a conventional surface water treatment plant capable of producing 2 million gallons per day flow. Currently the plant is making $\frac{1}{4}$ of its production capacity.

How do we treat your water?

And why?

- **Sodium Permanganate** is an oxidant use to lower Total Organic Carbon in the source water.
- **Caustic Soda** is for PH and Alkalinity Control
- **Polyaluminum Chloride** is used to make negative charged particles bind with positively charged chemicals
- **Ferric Sulfate** is also used to make the particles bind together.
- **Hydrofluosilicic Acid** is commonly called fluoride. Use to help prevent tooth decay in babies.
- **Phosphoric Acid** is a corrosion inhibitor that works by putting a protective film on the inside of the pipes in distribution system.
- **Ammonium Hydroxide** is used in conjunction with chlorine gas to produce Chloramines for disinfection.
- **Chlorine Gas** is a disinfectant as well as an oxidant

What do we test for?

- In our water-plant lab: We test water several times daily for turbidity, PH, Alkalinity, Color, Iron, Manganese, TOC, Chlorine, Fluoride, Monochloramine, Free Ammonia and Hardness.
- We send out additional samples to state certified lab. These include: TTHM, HHA's, TOC, SOC, Coliform, Bacteriological, VOC, Lead and Cooper, Radium, Fluoride...

What are Chloramines?

- Compound forms from mixing Chlorine with aqueous ammonia for disinfection. Very helpful in reducing the formation of trihalomethanes(TTHM'S). Also helpful in maintaining disinfection throughout the distribution system and in reducing taste and odor problems.

Does the town use Chloramines year round?

- No, once a year the town switches back to a free Chlorine treatment system. This is called a "burn out" or "a reversion". This to reduce the unstable water conditions in the water system. Much like the flushing program this is done as another way to insure higher quality of water.

More on Chloramines...

- **Are chloramines and chlorine safe?** Yes, we carefully control chlorine and chloramines in our water to meet the standards of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- **Are there any concerns for anyone using Chloramines or Chlorine water?** Both Chlorine and Chloramines must be removed from the water used in kidney dialysis machines. Medical clinics that perform dialysis are responsible for purifying the water that enters the dialysis machine. We have informed the overall community including clinics and medical facilities about the need to remove chloramines.

Do I need to treat my tap water for my aquarium?

- Chlorine and Chloramines are toxic to fish and amphibians. Our water must be treated with an additive before putting fish or frogs in it.

Why are some hydrants left open?

- This is a method used to clean water distribution lines, Hydrants are left opened and water with a high velocity flow helps to remove deposits from the pipes. Do not call 911 when you see an open hydrant. If you are concerned about a hydrant called town hall 542-4621.

Flushing.....



Problems with your water...

- **What should I do if my water is discolored or has an odor?** Call 919-542-3530 and two water technician will come out to your home. They will collect a sample and advise you what will be done about your issue. This is a service free of charge to all town residence. They will call you back with a report on your water after it has been tested in our lab.
- **What makes the water look cloudy or milky?** Air bubbles, which may enter the water system during repairs or temperature changes.
- **What should I do to clear up cloudy or milky water?** Run cold water for 5-10 minutes should clear up the problem. If the problem still persists call 542-462.

Is bottled water safer than tap water?

- Not necessarily, some bottled water is treated more than tap water and some bottle water is treated less or not treated at all. You should contact the company you buy bottle water from to find out how it's treated and tested. Bottled water is subjected to the standards of the FDA, unlike municipal water which is strictly regulated by the EPA. Many bottled waters do not contain fluoride and it's very important to developing babies to help prevent tooth decay. Some bottled water is municipality water that has been run through a carbon filter to remove chlorine. No water is safe when stored for lengthy amounts of time. In the Town of Pittsboro our water averages 3-5 days storage time. This means that from the time your water leaves the water plant until it reaches the furthest points in town the average time is 3-5 days. How old is your bottled water?

Water Links

- <http://www.epa.gov/OW/>
- <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/index.htm>
- <http://savewaternc.org/>