

Where does your water come from?

Before your water comes out of the faucet in the kitchen or bathroom, where does it come from?

Do you think it comes from the Atlantic Ocean? No.

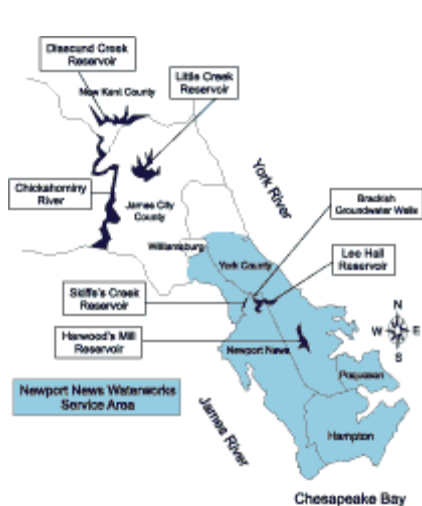
The Chesapeake Bay? No.

The James River? No.

We don't drink the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay or the James River because they are too salty. WAY too salty! All the waterways surrounding the Lower Peninsula are too salty to use for drinking water.



Most of your drinking water comes from the Chickahominy River. This is a fresh water river near Williamsburg. We don't have to take salt out of water from the Chickahominy River.



Newport News Waterworks pumps water out of the Chickahominy River. We send it through pipes to our reservoirs. Reservoirs are used to hold water until it is needed. Some small streams and springs also flow into our reservoirs and help keep them full.

We have five reservoirs. Our five reservoirs are:

- Lee Hall Reservoir - located in Newport News
- Harwood's Mill Reservoir - located in Newport News and York County
- Diascund Reservoir - located in New Kent and James City Counties
- Little Creek Reservoir - located in James City County
- Skiffe's Creek Reservoir - located in Newport News and James City County

Maybe you've seen one of our reservoirs. Have you ever been to Newport News Park? Did you see people in canoes, rowboats, or paddleboats? They were in our Lee Hall Reservoir.

Your drinking water also comes from rain and groundwater. Rainfall helps to keep our reservoirs full! We also pump some water from under the ground. The water from under the ground has some salt in it. We use a special process to take the salt out. We can do this because groundwater doesn't have as much salt as the ocean or the bay.

So, where does your drinking water come from? It comes from the Chickahominy River. It comes from streams and springs. It comes from groundwater. And it comes from rain that falls into our reservoirs.