

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



Decatur Water Department
Decatur, Indiana

Decatur is pleased to present this year's Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to keep you informed about the quality of your drinking water over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND WELLHEAD PROTECTION

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for our community. The source of Decatur's drinking water is groundwater produced from six (6) production wells, located in two separate well fields, the East Plant Well Field (4) and the Decatur-Berne Well Field (2). The wells are completed in a bedrock aquifer. A Source Water Assessment has indicated that our community drinking water supply is *moderately susceptible to contamination*.

To help protect our water supply wells, the Decatur Water Department is currently implementing a Wellhead Protection Plan. The Wellhead Protection Plan focuses on public awareness, education, spill prevention, and reporting. Information on what you can do to help protect our drinking water supply is included in this report.

If you have questions concerning your water utility or this report, please contact the Water Department at (260) 724-7171. If you want to learn more, you are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council Meetings at City Hall (172 North 2nd Street) in Council Chambers. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month immediately following the 6:00 PM Board of Public Works meeting.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Sources of drinking water (both tap 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 in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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 and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Ground Water and Drinking Water website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-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 Decatur Water Department 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 drinking 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 EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the Environmental Protection Agency's Ground Water and Drinking Water website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023, Decatur Water Department participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For a copy of the results please contact the Water Department at (260) 724-7171.

TIPS FOR PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY & WATERSHED

- Participate in watershed clean-up activities.
- Limit your use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products. Buy only what you need, reducing the amount to be later discarded. Follow label directions.
- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries and other chemical products. Do not dispose of these hazardous products in toilets, storm drains, wastewater systems, creeks, alleys or the ground. These actions pollute the water supply.
- Plug abandoned wells on your property as these old wells provide a direct route for surface contamination to reach ground water supplies. Contact a licensed well driller for assistance.
- For more information on household hazardous waste disposal in Adams County, please visit the Adams County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) online at <http://adamscountyswmd.com/>.

Prepared by
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DEFINITIONS

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Below the Detection Limit (BDL) - Substance not detected in the sample.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" is 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated substances, 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" is 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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of drinking water disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Not Applicable (N/A) - No MCLG and/or MCL has been established for these unregulated substances.

Parts Per Billion (PPB) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts Per Million (PPM) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

TABLE NOTES

- (1) Levels detected for Copper and Lead represent the 90th percentile value as calculated from a total of 20 samples.
- (2) Level detected for Lithium represents the average of 2 samples.
- (3) Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. MCLs and MCLGs have not been established for all unregulated contaminants.

AVERAGE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2023

The City of Decatur routinely monitors for substances in your drinking water according to all Federal and State laws. The following table provides the results from our most recent monitoring. The State allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, while representative, is more than one year old.

Name of Substance	Date Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Maximum Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Substance in Drinking Water
Disinfection Substances								
Chlorine Residual	2023	No	3.95	0.20 to 3.95	PPM	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA5s (Haloacetic acids)	08/15/2023	No	6.76	6.76 to 6.76	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total THMs (Trihalomethanes)	08/15/2023	No	30.1	30.1 to 30.1	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Substances								
Arsenic	03/06/2023	No	3.0	2.0 to 3.0	PPB	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ⁽¹⁾	2023	No	0.064 ⁽¹⁾	0.007 to 0.247	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	03/06/2023	No	1.37	1.32 to 1.37	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead ⁽¹⁾	2023	No	11.0 ⁽¹⁾	BDL to 13.4	PPB	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	03/06/2023	No	285	79.4 to 285	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; urban runoff.
Unregulated Contaminants								
Lithium	02/14/2023	No	39.5 ⁽²⁾	37.6 to 41.3	PPB	N/A ⁽³⁾	N/A ⁽³⁾	Naturally occurring metal.
Radioactive Substances								
Gross Alpha	10/12/2021	No	5.35	5.35 to 5.35	pCi/L	N/A	15	Erosion of natural deposits.

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 runoff, 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 runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.