

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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or by visiting their website at <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>.

### 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. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery for leaks and spills. Collect leaks with a drip pan until repairs can be made. Clean up spills by absorbing the spill. Do not rinse with water or allow it to soak into the ground.
- 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.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and serviced every three years.
- 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  
Wessler Engineering  
[www.wesslerengineering.com](http://www.wesslerengineering.com)

### 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



Artistically Inspired Innovation

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 your water utility and 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 nine (9) production wells, located in two separate well fields, the Decatur Downtown Well Field (7) 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 located at the City Hall (172 North 2nd Street). Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

## AVERAGE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2016

### DEFINITIONS

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.

**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 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.

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
<b>Disinfection Substances</b>								
Chlorine Residual	2016	No	1.80	0.12 to 1.80	PPM	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA5s (Haloacetic acids)	08/16/2016	No	14.0	12.9 to 14.0	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total TTHMs (Trihalomethanes)	08/16/2016	No	32.1	18.6 to 32.1	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Substances</b>								
Antimony	08/21/2014	No	1.1	BDL to 1.1	PPB	6	6	Fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic	08/21/2014	No	0.6	BDL to 0.6	PPB	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper <sup>(1)</sup>	2014	No	0.29 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.05 to 0.75	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	09/15/2014	No	1.25	0.77 to 1.25	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead <sup>(1)</sup>	2014	No	4.8 <sup>(1)</sup>	BDL to 15.1 <sup>(1)</sup>	PPB	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	08/21/2014	No	17	BDL to 17	PPB	100	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	02/08/2016	No	0.73	BDL to 0.73	PPM	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic systems.
Sodium	08/21/2014	No	246	213 to 246	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits, urban runoff.

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.

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.

### TABLE NOTES

(1) Levels detected for Copper and Lead represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value as calculated from a total of 20 samples. Note that one of the 20 samples for lead exceeded the Action Level. This is not a water quality violation. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for lead is below the MCL.