

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.

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.

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

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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 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS FOR PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY & WATERSHED

- Reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals that you use. Buy only what you need so that you don't have to dispose of leftovers. Read all the labels and follow directions.
- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in toilets, storm drains, wastewater systems, creeks, alleys, or the ground. This pollutes the water supply.
- Use organic lawn and garden alternatives that do not contain synthetic chemical poisons. Reduce the use of products that contain any of the following words on their labels: caution, warning, danger, poison, flammable, volatile, caustic, or corrosive.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Decatur Water Department
Decatur, Indiana

Decatur is pleased to present this year's Annual 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 constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. 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 and education and 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 any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Inskeep at the Water Department at (260) 724-3814. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held at City Hall, located at 225 W. Monroe Street, Decatur, IN. They are held the first and third Tuesday each month at 7:30 PM.

As your water utility, we work diligently to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our groundwater resource, which is the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Included in the table, you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following:

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) - Constituent not detected in the sample.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) 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 - The "Maximum Allowed" (MRDL) is the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MRDLG) is the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

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

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.

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

AVERAGE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2010

The Decatur Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to all Federal and State laws. The following table provides the results for those substances that were detected as part of our most recent monitoring.

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 Byproducts and Precursors								
Bromodichloromethane	2008	No	2.88	0.95 to 4.8	PPB	0	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromoform	2008	No	1.27	0.84 to 1.69	PPB	0	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine Residual	2010	No	0.9	0.4 to 0.9	PPM	MRDL G=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorodibromomethane	2008	No	3.3	1.4 to 5.23	PPB	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
HAA5s (Haloacetic acids)	8/10/2010	No	4.7	4.7 to 4.7	PPB	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total THMs (Trihalomethanes)	8/18/2010	No	17.4	17.4 to 17.4	PPB	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Substances								
Antimony	7/22/2008	No	2.2	1.2 to 2.2	PPB	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Arsenic	7/22/2008	No	1.1	0.7 to 1.1	PPB	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	7/22/2008	No	0.08	0.077 to 0.083	PPM	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries.
Chromium	7/22/2008	No	3.3	2.4 to 3.3	PPB	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ⁽¹⁾	2008	No	0.44 ⁽¹⁾	0.03 to 0.66	PPM	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	7/22/2008	No	1.85	1.2 to 1.85	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead ⁽¹⁾	2008	No	7.7 ⁽¹⁾	BDL to 18.1	PPB	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	8/19/2010	No	0.69	0.38 to 0.69	PPM	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	7/22/2008	No	263.8	224.1 to 263.8	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching.
Radioactive Substances								
Alpha particles	8/25/2008	No	1.0	0.5 to 1.0	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta particles	8/25/2008	No	2.9	0.1 to 2.9	pCi/L	0	40	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

TABLE NOTES

(1) - Levels detected for Lead and Copper represent the 90th 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 90th percentile value for lead is below the MCL.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data while representative, is more than one year old.