

## 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 EPA'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 Auburn 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 at the Environmental Protection Agency'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>.

## TIPS FOR PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 groundwater supplies. Contact a licensed well driller for assistance.
- The Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District accepts oils, paints, and other household hazardous waste. For more information visit <http://www.niswmd.org> or call 260-587-3063.
- If you have questions concerning your water utility or this report, please contact Mr. Clint Sites, Auburn Water Department, at (260) 925-5711.

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# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



"Home of the Classics"

## Auburn Water Department Auburn, Indiana

Auburn 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 Auburn's drinking water is groundwater produced from 10 production wells located in two different well fields (North and South) within our community. The wells withdraw water from a sand and gravel aquifer. A Source Water Assessment has indicated that the water system is *moderately susceptible to contamination*.

To help protect our water supply wells, the Auburn Water Department has implemented a Wellhead Protection Plan that 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 would like more information, please contact the Auburn Water Department at (260) 925-5711 or attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Public Works and Safety Meetings, held in the Council Chambers (206 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street). Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

## 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 "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The "Goal" 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 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.

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

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.

## TABLE NOTES

(1) Level detected for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile value as calculated from a total of 30 samples.

(2) Some of the 30 samples collected 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.

## AVERAGE WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2021

The Auburn Water Department 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.

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><u>Inorganic Substances</u></b>								
Barium	05/20/2020	No	0.58	0.54 to 0.58	PPM	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2020	No	0.219 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.025 to 0.558	PPM	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (natural)	05/20/2020	No	0.977	0.954 to 0.977	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	2020	No	6.0 <sup>(1)</sup>	BDL to 16.0 <sup>(2)</sup>	PPB	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	05/11/2021	No	0.37	0.36 to 0.37	PPM	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; septic tank leachate.
Sodium	05/20/2020	No	17.4	16.5 to 17.4	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; urban runoff.
<b><u>Disinfection Substances</u></b>								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	2021	No	24.5	20.4 to 24.5	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic acids (HAA5s)	2021	No	9.7	BDL to 9.7	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine Residual	2021	No	1.51	0.25 to 1.51	PPM	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b><u>Radioactive Substances</u></b>								
Beta/Photon Emitters	05/22/2017	No	1.5	0.4 to 1.5	pCi/L	N/A	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross Alpha	05/22/2017	No	3.0	0.8 to 3.0	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 and 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.