



Columbus City Utilities

2024 Drinking Water Quality Report

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Columbus obtains all of its public drinking water from groundwater resources. This groundwater is obtained from 22 wells and two filtration plants.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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.

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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, 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 contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Your water is regularly tested to ensure its safety. You can see the results of this on the Table of Detected Compounds.

Federal Drinking Water Requirements

Columbus City Utilities meets all drinking water quality standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The American Water Works Association standards guide operations and maintenance. We are pleased to report that during the calendar year for 2023 (or before), there were no violations of these standards and all monitoring requirements as set forth by IDEM were met or exceeded. The operators at our water treatment plant are certified by the State of Indiana and they receive continuous training and education.



Questions About Your Drinking Water?

For further information on Columbus City Utilities or our Water Quality Report, please visit our website at columbusutilities.org. You may also reach us by phone at (812) 372-8861 or by email at ccu@columbusutilities.org

The Columbus Utility Service Board meets in public session the third Thursday of each month to discuss the business of the Utilities. The meetings are held in the Board Room at the Utilities Service Center located at 1111 McClure Road in Columbus, Indiana at 11:30 am.

Aviso Importante

Este reporte contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda. En espanol: 812-372-8861.



Columbus City Utilities' Quality Control Laboratory received the **2023 Laboratory of the Year** from the Southern Indiana Operators Association.

Drinking Water Contaminants

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact Columbus City Utilities. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Columbus City Utilities 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 thirty seconds to two minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

EPA Definitions & Abbreviations

- AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ALG:** Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- AVG:** Average. Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- MREM:** Millirems Per Year. A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- N/A:** Not applicable.
- ppb:** Parts Per Billion. Micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- ppm:** Parts Per Million. Milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- TT:** Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- 90th%:** Ninety percent of samples had lower values than the value indicated.

2023 Water Quality Table of Detected Compounds

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Typical Sources
Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts								
Chlorine	2023	1.8	0.7-1.8	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	7.8 (LRAA)	<2.0-10.6	N/A	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	16.8 (LRAA)	7.9-21.0	N/A	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	5/25/23	0.0639	0.0454-0.0639	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide, Total	5/25/23	0.0081	<0.0050-0.0081	0.2	0.2	ppm	N	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride	5/25/23	0.754	0.537-0.754	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	2.75	<0.500-2.75	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Combined Radium (226 + 228)	3/7/23	0.81	<0.63-0.81	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (Excl. Radon & U)	3/7/23	4.98	<2.51-4.98	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium - 226	3/7/23	0.55	<0.24-0.55	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium - 228	3/7/23	0.81	<0.63-0.81	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper								
Copper	2021	0.76	1	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2021	3.59	0	15	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Unregulated Contaminants								
All Public Water Systems serving more than 10,000 people were required to test 20 unregulated contaminants. Of those contaminants, detectable results were found in the following:								
Bromochloroacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	1.90 2.23	1.48-1.90 1.78-2.23	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	2.58 2.81	1.07-2.58 1.45-2.81	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	1.02 1.94	0.74-1.02 0.90-1.94	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	0.85 0.78	0.63-0.85 0.67-0.78	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	5.11 4.16	1.83-5.11 2.30-4.16	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic Acid	11/2019 5/2020	2.02 3.01	1.24-2.02 1.64-3.01	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Manganese	11/2019 5/2020	1.77 4.25	1.61-1.77 0.93-4.25	N/A	N/A	ppb	N	Water passing through soil and rock can dissolve minerals containing manganese
Additional Parameters								
Arsenic	2023	<0.0010	<0.0010-<0.0010	0	0.010	ppm	N	Additional Testing Quality control and process sampling
Conductivity	2023	480	381-578	N/A	N/A	umhos/cm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2023	335	312-364	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2023	19.7	18.2-21.3	N/A	N/A	grains/gallon	N	Quality control and process sampling
Iron	2023	0.03	0.0-0.16	N/A	0.30	ppm	N	Secondary Standard
Copper	2023	0.0048	<0.0020-0.0098	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Lead	2023	<0.0010	<0.0010-<0.0010	0.015	0.015	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Manganese	2023	0.02	0.00-0.05	N/A	0.05	ppm	N	Secondary Standard
Nickel	2023	<0.0020	<0.0020-<0.0020	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
pH	2023	7.4	7.1-7.5	N/A	6.5-8.5	pH Unit	N	Secondary Standard
Total Dissolved Solids	2023	354	286-426	N/A	500	ppm	N	Secondary Standard