

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 EPA's 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.

Wellhead Protection Plan

Columbus City Utilities has a Wellhead Protection Plan on file with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and is reviewed on a regular basis. Customers can request a copy by contacting Columbus City Utilities. Columbus City Utilities was honored with the Hoosier Water Guardian with Distinction designation. This program recognizes communities that go above and beyond minimum state standards for Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection.



Where Does Your Water Come From?

Columbus obtains all of its public drinking water from groundwater resources. This groundwater is obtained from 26 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 2025 (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 Columbus City Utilities located at 1111 McClure Road in Columbus, Indiana at 11:30 am.

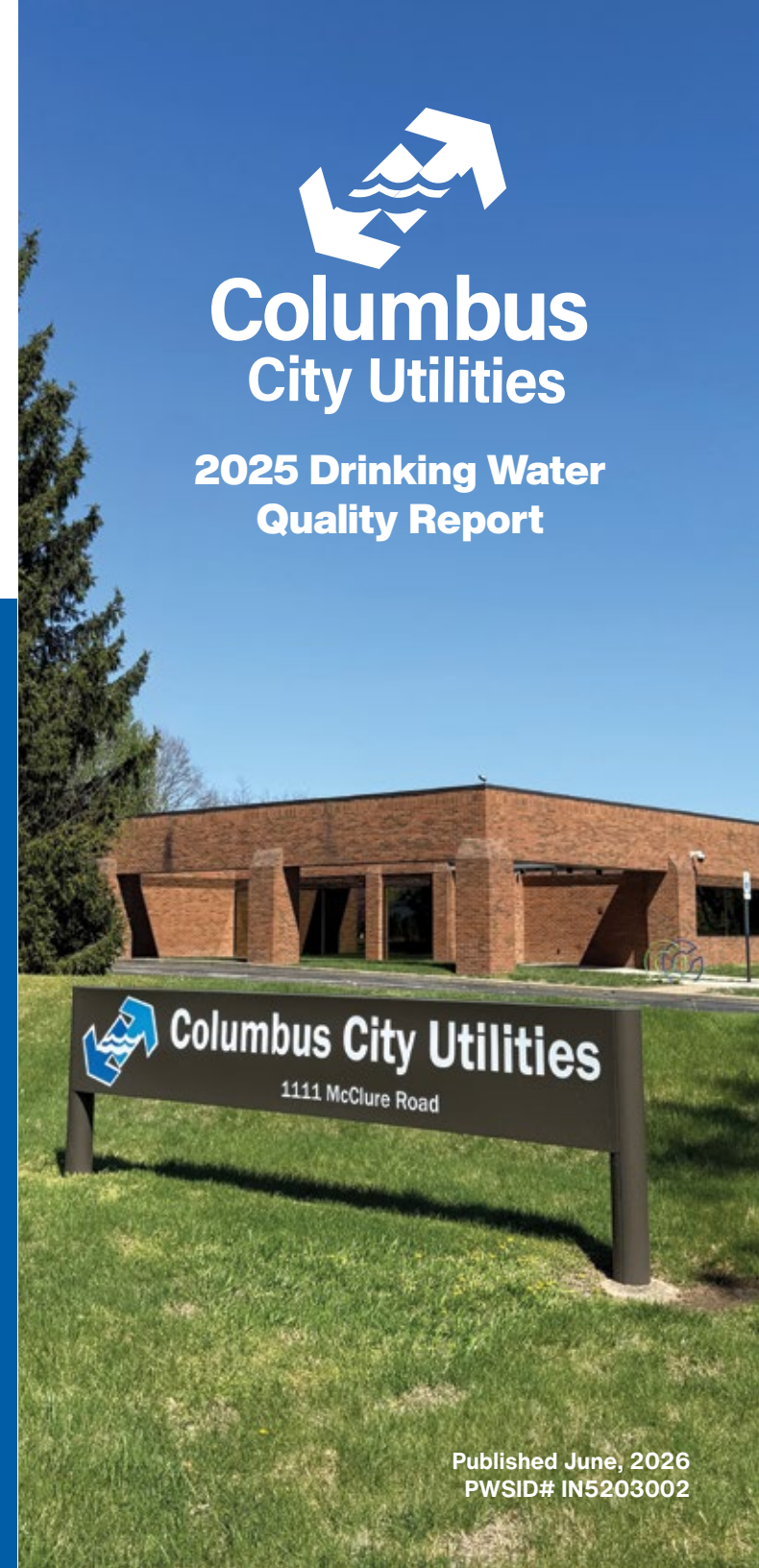
Aviso Importante

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

2025 Drinking Water Quality Report



Lead in Drinking Water

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

You can access Columbus City Utilities' Service Line Inventory at the following link: <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/ColumbusIN> or scan the QR code below.

Service Line Inventory



Nitrate in Drinking Water

Even though Columbus City Utilities meets the EPA nitrate drinking water standard, also known as Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), if you are caring for an infant and using tap water to prepare formula, you may want to use alternate sources of water or ask for advise from your health care provider. Nitrate levels **above** 10 ppm pose a particularly high health concern for infants under 6 months of age and can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms of serious illness include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin, known as "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels in drinking water can increase for short periods of time due to high levels of rainfall or agricultural activity, therefore we test for nitrate annually. The highest level for nitrate found during 2025 was 5.07 ppm.

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.

pCi/L: Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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.

RAA: Running Annual Average

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.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

2025 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	2025	1.3 (RAA)	0.5-1.7	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	2025	7.8 (LRAA)	<2.0-8.2	N/A	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	22.8 (LRAA)	5.0-19.0	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)	2025	5.07	<0.500-5.07	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								
		90th Percentile	# Sites over AL		Action Lvl.			
Copper	2025	0.828	2	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2025	2.74	1	15	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Unregulated Contaminants								
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	1/14/25	0.0096	0.0048-0.0096			ppb	N	Typical Sources Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of manmade chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. For decades, PFAS has been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS can get into drinking water when products or wastes containing them are disposed of, used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers.
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	1/14/25	0.0092	0.0083-0.0092			ppb	N	
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	1/14/25	0.0083	<0.0030-0.0083			ppb	N	
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	1/14/25	0.0163	0.0140-0.0163			ppb	N	

Our system collected samples under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples in January 2025 and detected the compounds show in this table. These compounds are not regulated at this time. If you would like to view our complete results, view our website at columbusutilities.org or contact our office at 812-372-8861.

Additional Parameters	Collection Date	Annual Average	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Additional Testing
Arsenic	2025	0.0018	<0.0010-0.0041	0	0.010	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2025	335	328-344	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2025	19.6	19.2-20.1	N/A	N/A	grains/gallon	N	Quality control and process sampling
Iron	2025	0.03	0.00-0.20	N/A	0.30	ppm	N	Secondary Standard
Copper	2025	0.0049	<0.0020-0.0084	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Lead	2025	<0.0010	<0.0010-<0.0010	0.015	0.015	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
Manganese	2025	0.02	0.00-0.05	N/A	0.05	ppm	N	Secondary Standard
Nickel	2025	<0.0020	<0.0020-<0.0020	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	Quality control and process sampling
pH	2025	7.2	7.0-7.3	N/A	6.5-8.5	pH Unit	N	Secondary Standard