ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

Mishawaka Utilities, Water Division

PWS ID#: IN5271009

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does Mishawaka's Water Come From?

Mishawaka Utilities pumps groundwater from 23 wells that tap the Saint Joseph Aquifer and transmits it to our three water treatment plants at Virgil Street, Division Street, and Juday Creek. Mishawaka sits on one of the most prolific aquifers in the United States, if not the world. Through extensive testing every day of the year, we monitor the water that is pumped from the aquifer. Our wellhead protection team watches closely for any spills, dumping, or unapproved or illegal wells. Combined, our treatment facilities provide over two billion gallons of clean drinking water every year to our consumers.

Source Water Assessment

Our Source Water Assessment yielded a susceptibility rating of 'High'. More information can be found here: https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/information-about/groundwater-monitoring-and-source-water-protection/source-water-assessment-program/.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Utility Board meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Public Works Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall, 100 Lincolnway West.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.

Lead in Home Plumbing

> **"Water is the driving force of all nature."**
>
> *–Leonardo da Vinci*

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 Mishawaka Utilities Water Division is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead, 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be viewed at mishawaka.in.gov/lead-free/. Please contact us at (574) 258-1652 (option 5) or MishawakaLeadFree@Mishawaka.in.gov if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Questions?

This report is provided annually as a public service by Mishawaka Utilities so that our consumers may have confidence in the quality of our water. If you have any questions about the content of this report, please contact Water Division Manager Dave Majewski at (574) 258-1652 or by e-mail at dmajewski@mishawaka.in.gov. Learn more about Mishawaka Utilities at mishawaka.in.gov. Further information may be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) at epa.gov/safewater/.

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791

Mishawaka Utilities, PWSID #IN5271009, is a member of the American Water Works Association.

Q&A

Why can tap water have a taste?
Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

Why is water sometimes called the "original energy drink"?
Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?
Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

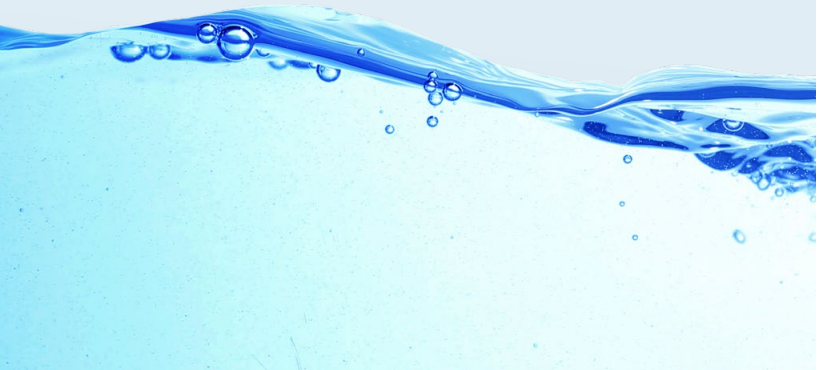
Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?
Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?
Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



Sources of Drinking Water

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 occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. 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.

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 mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

Wellhead Protection Plan

Our water system maintains a wellhead protection plan designed to protect the groundwater sources that supply your drinking water. Our plan is designed to safeguard drinking water by identifying and managing potential contamination sources around wellheads. If you would like to review a copy of the plan or learn how you can help protect our water sources, please contact us at (574) 258-1652.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0	1.4	1.4–1.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.22	0.22–0.22	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	0.90	0.20–1.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2024	100	100	2.5	2.5–2.5	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	4	4	0.61	0.61–0.61	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppm)	2024	0.1	NA	0.0016	ND–0.0016	No	Naturally occurs in soils, groundwater, and surface waters; Electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.1	ND–1.1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.1	ND–1.1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform (percent positive samples)	2024	>5	0	ND	NA	No	Naturally present in environment

RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	5	0	1.2	0.93-1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0	1.2	0.41–1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0	0.52	ND–0.52	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): It's the average of four consecutive quarterly sample results at a specific monitoring location for disinfection byproducts — specifically Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

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 a 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

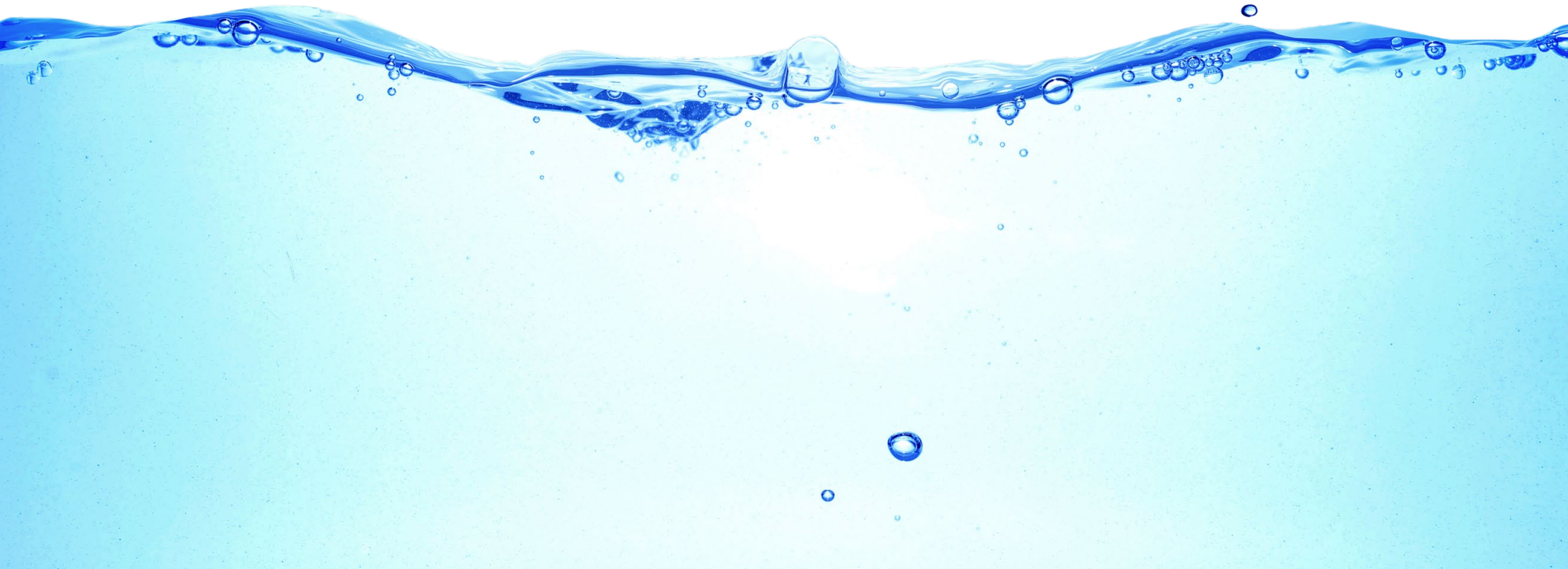
ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.95	0.009–1.1	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	8.9	ND–22	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	HIGHEST LRAA	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	16.6	13.20–16.60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	38.48	24.90–38.48	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Dibromochloromethane (ppm)	2023	0.0058	0.0055–0.0058	Disinfection by-product
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	3.4	ND–3.4	A group of chemicals used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2024	5.2	ND–5.2	A group of chemicals used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2025	5.9	ND–5.9	A group of chemicals used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	4.2	ND–4.2	A group of chemicals used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2024	3.3	ND–3.3	A group of chemicals used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water
Sodium (ppm)	2023	44	15–44	Erosion of natural deposits