



Michigan City Department of Water Works

Water Quality Report 2025

PWSID IN5246020

Message from the Superintendent

We're pleased to once again present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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 pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, you may contact the Main Office at (219) 874-3228, and speak to Christopher Johnsen, Superintendent. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more you may attend the Water Board meetings. They are scheduled twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Office, 532 Franklin Street.

Water Source and Treatment

The greater area of Michigan City receives its drinking water directly from Lake Michigan, a surface water source. There is a source water assessment available by contacting the office. It is treated through a conventional treatment process that includes Flocculation-Sedimentation (the mixing of Alum into the water to create "Floc" which allows large particulate matter to settle out of the water) and Filtration (to remove fine particulate matter and micro-organisms from the water). Chemical additions are also required which includes Chlorine (for bacteriological removal), Alum (to remove large particulate matter), Fluoride (to prevent dental decay), and Chloramines (the mixture of chlorine and ammonia which allows for longer disinfectant levels in the water distribution system and remove chlorine odor from the water). Polyphosphate is added to inhibit internal corrosion of water mains and water services.

Monitoring & Measuring Contaminants, Including Lead

The Department of Water Works of Michigan City, IN routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Table on the back shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. 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.

The 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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water are:

1. **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural, livestock operations and wildlife.
2. **Inorganic Chemical Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
3. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.
4. **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.
5. **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

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

It is important to know that 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 systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularly be at risk and 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* are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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. The Department of Water Works is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 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 (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The EPA required water utilities to conduct an inventory of the individual service lines to identify lead lines. The Department has been able to determine that there are only two lead service lines in the system, and they are only on the customer side. Those customers have been notified directly. The inventory and additional information can be found at: <https://pws-ptd.120wateraudit.com/MichiganCity-IN>.

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 and breast-fed), 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 and 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 risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Water Quality Analysis

The chart that follows the list of abbreviations shows the highest recorded level in Michigan City in 2025 or the last time the contaminant was tested and the highest allowed by the USEPA. Michigan City water has met all EPA requirements.

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 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 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.

AL: Action level, the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, is the measure of clarity of the water

mg/l: milligrams per liter, a measurement for concentration equivalent to ppm = one part per million, or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

ug/l: micrograms per liter, measurement for concentration equivalent to ppb = one part per billion, or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

Avg: Average – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

ND: Not detected, the result was not detected at or below the analytical method detection level.

TT: Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

TT:** **Special Note on Turbidity:** The turbidity treatment technique (TT) requires that at least 95% of the total combined effluent turbidity samples shall not exceed 0.3 NTU (1.0 NTU for slow sand and diatomaceous earth filtration systems). At least 95% is required to be in compliance. In addition, the maximum turbidity level cannot exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Unit	Highest Result	Range or Max	Sites over AL	Violation	Likely Sources
3/4/2025	Barium	2	2	mg/L	0.019	0.019		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
3/4/2025	Fluoride	4	4	mg/L	0.65	0.65		No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharges from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
3/4/2025	Nitrate-Nitrite (as N)	10	10	mg/L	0.46	0.46		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic systems and sewers.
3/4/2025	Nitrate	10	10	ug/L	0.46	0.46		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizers; Leaching from septic systems and sewers.
2025	Total Trihalomethanes	80	0	ug/L	LRAA= 22.4	10.2 – 30.5		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2025	Total Haloacetic Acids	60	0	ug/L	LRAA= 3.5	ND-3.9		No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
2025	Chloramines	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	mg/L	1	0.2-2.7		No	Water additive used to control microbes; At least 40 samples per month per Total Coliform Rule
8/12/2025	Total Organic Carbon	TT	TT	mg/L	2.18	1.35-2.18		No	Naturally present in the environment
2025	Turbidity (lowest percentage)	TT**	TT**	NTU	0.29	100% below limit of 0.3 NTU		No	Soil runoff – The highest result occurred in May and was due to maintenance work on the analyzer.
2023	Lead (90th percentile)	15 (AL)	0	ug/L	90%: 1.9	ND-21	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
2023	Copper (90th percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	mg/L	0.24	0.0018-0.86	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives

UCMR-5: Forever Chemicals – PFAS and PFOS

In the year 2023, the USEPA required the Department to monitor for these contaminants quarterly beginning in May of 2023. The contaminants of concern included Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances and Perfluorinated Alkyl Acids, commonly known as PFAS or PFOS. These chemicals have been used in many everyday items, such as Teflon, fire-retardant clothing, and fire-fighting foam. These chemicals have been discovered to not break down over time like many other chemicals do. Therefore, these chemicals have been called “Forever Chemicals”. There were a total of 29 variations of these chemicals included. In addition to these chemicals, lithium was tested, due, in part, to the sharp increase in the use of lithium battery technology. We are happy to announce that in all samples of finished water, these contaminants were not detected.

Violations

During the period covered by this report, IDEM assessed one violation to the Department on 7/01/2025. Per the Consumer Confidence rule, the Department is required to have certain language within the document. Due to formatting, the language was present but was missed during document review. Once determined to be present, the violation was closed on 10/01/2025. This violation in no way jeopardized the safety of the water supplied by the Department. The format of this year’s report was modified to ensure that the language is aligned with a standard formatting.