

2009 Annual Water Quality Report

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Town of Westville supplies ground water from two wells. These wells draw water from the Valparaiso Moraine at a depth of 175 feet.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Town of Westville encourages all citizens to actively protect the areas drinking water resources. Using common sense can do this. The water for Westville is drawn from underground sources. The geological characteristics that create our abundant underground water resources also make them vulnerable to contamination from the surface activities of man. Carefully manage how you use such items as petroleum products, paint, pesticides, and other common household chemicals. Dispose of excess chemicals in the manner directed by the label instructions. It is very simple. Don't dump anything on the ground that you wouldn't want to drink some day!

Why are there contaminants in my 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 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.

How can I get involved?

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The Town Council has regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall, 353 W. Main Street at 7:00 pm. The public is invited to attend. Questions or concerns about your drinking water should be directed to Utility Superintendent Bart Frank at 785-1880. This report along with other information about the water system is available online at www.westville.us.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA’s Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network’s How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people “Dump No Waste - Drains to River” or “Protect Your Water.” Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Town of Westville 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 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	2.2	0.14	2.2	2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	8.1	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.5	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.95	0.09	1.95	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	0.003	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.042	NA		2009	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	4	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	5	NA		2009	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	10	NA		2009	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0.2	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	1	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	1	NA		2009	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	3.1	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2009	No	Naturally present in the environment
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	0.5	NA		2009	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0.5	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition

ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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