

BLUFFTON  
WATER  
DEPARTMENT  
PWSID IN5290001

2021

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY  
REPORT FOR

**The City of Bluffton** is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed 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 committed to ensuring the quality of your water. **In 2021, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and Indiana drinking water health standards.**

**Our water source is supplied by ground water wells drilled deep into white limestone aquifer formation overlying with clay layers 10-40 feet thick.** Bluffton has completed its Well Head Protection Program plan. This is a detailed plan for the protection of Bluffton's ground water wells. This plan was approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental management (IDEM) as of May 14, 2014. Phase 2 of the wellhead protection plan was updated and approved by IDEM on May 11, 2020. Source water assessment information is available at the Water Filtration Plant, Call 824-6064.

Bluffton Water Department  
128 East Market Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714

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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.

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.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the system's business office.

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/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).

Bluffton Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the detected constituents results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st through December 31st, 2021, unless otherwise noted. In cases where the most recent monitoring data is prior to 2021, the year is noted next to the constituent identification. Included in this monitoring program Bluffton participated in the EPA “chemical contaminants for assessment and monitoring and contaminates for a screening survey”.

**The Bluffton water system has no water quality violations.** We’re proud that the Bluffton’s drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that the levels detected do not pose a health risk. Chlorine is added to your drinking water for the purpose of disinfection. This report shows Bluffton’s water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Mr. Todd Shady, Production Supervisor, at 824-6064. If you want to learn more, please contact Mr. Shady to arrange for an appointment at the Water Filtration Plant. Appointments can be scheduled Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. We want Bluffton customers to be informed about their water utility. Board of Public Works and Safety meeting are held weekly on Tuesdays at 3:30pm at City Hall.

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

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.

#### Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): 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.

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

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	#Sites of AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/18/2020	1.3	1.3	0.021	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/18/2020	0	15	1.4	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

#### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2021	1	1 – 1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2021	4	4.3 – 4.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	44	43.5 – 43.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2021	0.027	0.027 – 0.027	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chromium	2021	2.5	2.5 – 2.5	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2021	1	1 – 1	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2021	1.84	1.84 – 1.84	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

**Total Organic Carbon** – The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless violation is noted in the violations section.

#### Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: 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.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

na: not applicable

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