



VALPARAISO WATER QUALITY REPORT 2024

Your Water Quality is Our First Priority

The Valparaiso City Utilities (VCU) Water Department is pleased to provide you with our annual Water Quality Report. The purpose of this report is:

- **To provide you with information about your drinking water.**
- **To comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reporting requirements.**

We have summarized information about your water supply sources, the water facilities that deliver water to your tap, and the quality of your drinking water. We are taking this opportunity to present additional information about other programs that are helping to ensure you have safe and dependable drinking water.

As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we will be diligent in maintaining our objective of providing quality drinking water at an affordable price. If you have any health concerns related to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. For more information about this report or for any questions related to your drinking water, please contact Mr. Shihua Chen, *Utilities Operations and Maintenance Director*, by phone at (219) 462-6174 ext. 1341 or by e-mail at schen@valpo.us



**VALPARAISO
CITY SERVICES**

Water Sources

The Valparaiso Water Department has two drinking water treatment plants and four drinking water well fields. The water treated by the Flint Lake Treatment Plant comes from ten wells located in the Lake Michigan Basin Aquifer and water treated by the Airport Treatment Plant comes from fourteen wells located in the Kankakee Basin Aquifer.

The Valparaiso Water Department was the first public water supply in Indiana to complete its Wellhead Protection Program, which was designed to protect our wells from contamination. The Water Department was also the first public water utility in Indiana to complete the phase II update to the Wellhead Protection Program. For further information on the Wellhead Protection Program, please contact Mr. Dustin Johnson, *Wellhead Protection Administrator*, by phone at (219) 462-6174 or by e-mail at dujohnson@valpo.us

VALPARAISO CITY UTILITIES
205 BILLINGS STREET
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Through the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water and also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Each system continually monitors for these substances and reports to the EPA. If the substances are detected in the drinking water, The EPA uses this data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water and to verify that states are enforcing laws regulating drinking water. This publication conforms to the SDWA requirement that water utilities annually provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers. We are committed to providing you this information about your water supply because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

Working Hard for You



You are invited to attend the Valparaiso City Utilities Board meetings to voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Utilities Board meetings are open to the public and are held at 205 Billings Street every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Community Participation

Benefits of Water Efficiency

The average family spends more than \$1,100 per year on its water and sewer bill. You could save about \$350 per year by making just a few simple changes to use water more efficiently. For example, installing water efficient fixtures and appliances can reduce water use by at least 20 percent! When purchasing new appliances and bathroom products, look for the ENERGY STAR label and the WATERSENSE label for higher energy and water efficiencies.

When we use water more efficiently, we reduce the needs for costly infrastructure investments in water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, we can not only help reduce the energy required to supply and treat public water supplies, but also can help address climate changes. To learn more about water efficiency, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

Information on the Internet

For more information on Water Department, visit our website at www.valparaisoutilities.org. The U.S. EPA Office of Water website water.epa.gov and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website www.cdc.gov provide information on many issues related to water resources, water conservation, and public health. The Indiana Department of Health's website www.in.gov/isdh provides complete and current information on water issues in the state of Indiana.

Drinking Water Summary

The VCU Water Department is proud of the high quality of its water supply, which meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water quality requirements. The Department routinely monitors for more than 100 chemicals in the drinking water making sure the water is safe to drink. The Department also collected samples for testing 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR). 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. These samples were collected in October 2023 and April 2024, and none of the PFAS and Lithium compounds were detected. If you would like to review the results of chemicals that are tested in the drinking water, please contact Shihua Chen by phone at 462-6174 ext. 1341, by e-mail at schen@valpo.us or by mail at 205 Billings Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383.

SUBSTANCE TESTED FOR AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS AND IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	AMOUNT RANGE	COMPLIANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2024	2	2	0.057	0.046-0.057	YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1.4	0.2 - 1.4	YES	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (adjusted, ppm)	2024	4	4	0.75	0.70 - 0.75	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; Drinking water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nickel (ppm)	2024	UNREGULATED	NA	0.0011	0 - 0.0011	YES	Smelting & refining and steel works industries
Chromium (total, ppm)	2024	0.1	0.1	0.0033	0.0026-0.0033	YES	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2024	80	NA	25 (HIGHEST LRAA)	12 - 32	YES	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2024	60	NA	9 (HIGHEST LRAA)	4 - 8	YES	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliforms*	2024	5%	0	1.54%	NA	YES	Naturally present in the environment
E Coli	2024	TT	0	0	NA	YES	Human and animal fecal waste

SUBSTANCE TESTED FOR AT CUSTOMER'S TAP

SUBSTANCE	YEAR SAMPLED	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	ACTION LEVEL(AL)	90TH PERCENTILE	AMOUNT RANGE	COMPLIANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	0	1.3	0.5	0 - 0.8	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	0	15	6	0 - 14	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. In July a positive sample was reported and it was a warning of potential problems. Subsequent repeat sample results confirmed that sample was false positive.

Table Definitions:

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

Average (AVG): An average of sample results collected during the reporting year. Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

NA: Not Applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

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

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion (or micrograms per liter).

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million (or milligrams per liter).

Percent: %.

Amount Range: A range of individual samples results, from lowest to highest, collected during the reporting year.

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

Substances Found in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 these 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 1-800-426-4791.

Public water systems and water bottlers use a variety of water sources. These sources include rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, radioactive material (if present), and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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 contaminants, which may come from 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 can naturally occur, or be the result of oil and mining activities.

Special Health Information

You should know some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on how to take the appropriate means to reduce the risks of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Information on Lead & Lead Service Line Inventory

It is important for you to know that your drinking water continues to meet all federal and state requirements, including those for lead. Per EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI): 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 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 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.

The VCU Water Department is in the process of conducting the lead service line inventory. The Department is also in compliance with all current requirements of the LCRI. For more information on the service line inventory, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mtt8mdc6>.