

Town of Pierceton Water Department
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TOWN OF PIERCETON WATER DEPARTMENT

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. 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 contaminant**, 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, 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 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.

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. Pierceton Water Department 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>.

Consumer Confidence Report 2018

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

How can I get involved?

Town Council Meetings are the Second Monday of the Month @ 6:30 in the Community Building

Consumer Confidence Report

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) (ppb)	NA	60	15	12.7	16.2	2017	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	35	26	43	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2	1.9	2.8	2017	No	Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.8	0.8	0.8	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	2	2	0.188	0.188	0.188	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	1.4	1.4	1.4	2017	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
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	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	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State assigned Maximum Permissible Level
Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	not applicable
ND	not detected
NR	monitoring not required, but recommended

Substance (units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90 th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.222	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2017	0	15	4.5	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations Table

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR)	01/01/2017	2017	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)			
The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children and the elderly.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE, MINOR (RTCR)	06/01/2017	06/30/2017	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
MONITORING, ROUTINE, MINOR (RTCR)	08/01/2017	08/31/2017	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.