

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 2019

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 (HAA5) (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. |