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 form 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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Town of Pierceton Water Department
Phone: 574-594-2213
E-mail: casey@pierceton.org

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.

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).

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.

TOWN OF PIERCETON WATER DEPARTMENT

Consumer Confidence Report 2023

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 Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
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	14	13.3	15	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	31	29.3	32.7	2022	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2.3	2.3	2.3	2020	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	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.215	0.215	0.215	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	0	4	0.6	0.6	0.6	04/29/19	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	1.3	1.3	1.3	04/29/19	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Substance (units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.203	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2022	0	15	NA	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
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.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
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.
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.
ALG	Action Level Goal: 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.
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
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
ppb	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
mrem	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NA	not applicable
ND	not detected
NR	monitoring not required, but recommended