

2020 Consumer Confidence Report

Fort Branch Water Department – PWS # IN5226001

Important information for the Spanish-Speaking population

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Is my water safe?

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water we provided last year. Included as part of this report are details about the source of the water you drink, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Standards. We are committed to providing you this information about the quality of the water you drink.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source water assessment and its availability

A Source Water Assessment (SWA) has been prepared for our system. According to this assessment, our system has been categorized with a moderate susceptibility risk. More information on this assessment can be obtained by contacting Alex Riddle of IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (317)235-5025.

Where does my water come from?

The source of water for the Town of Fort Branch is from six wells. One through four is situated North of CR550 S & East of US Hwy 41 N. Wells eight & nine are at US Hwy 41 & CR650 S.

Fort Branch maintains an emergency connection to Gibson Water, Inc. (East of US Hwy 41 S & South of CR 750 S) Fort Branch did not use water from this source in 2019.

Our Watershed Protection Efforts

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

Public Involvement Opportunities

To learn more about our water utility please attend the regular scheduled Town Council meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Senior/Community Center 110 N. Railroad Street Fort Branch. Please contact Mr. Fred Brokaw at (812)753-3824 for questions regarding this report. Town Hall address is 801 E. Mulberry St. Fort Branch, IN 47648.

Additional Lead Information

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. Fort Branch 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 State Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 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.

The Source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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.

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, livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, 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 problems.
- Radioactive materials, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- In order to ensure 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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Test Results

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of the contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise indicated, the data presented in this table is from testing done between January 1 and December 31, 2019. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires us to monitor for certain contaminants at a frequency less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from one year to another. Some of the data, through representative of the water quality, may however be more than a year old.

Contaminates (Units)	MCL	MCLG	Your Water	Range	Year Sampled	Violation	Typical Source
Regulated Substances							
Arsenic	.010 mg/l	.010 mg/l	0.0023mg/l	0.0023-0.0023	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.0862	0.0862-0.0862	2018	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	.02	0.02	0.0051	0.0051-0.0051	2018	No	Discharge from steel, metal, plastic, and fertilizer factories.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.826	0.826-0.826	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.595	0.595-0.595	2018	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	4	0	3.4	3.4-3.4	2012	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Uranium (ug/l)	30	0	1.5	1.5-1.5	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ug/L) Haloacetic Acids	80	N/A	20.0 2.7	20.0-20.0 2.7-2.7	2019 2017	No No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	4	4	1	1-1	2017	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Tap Water Samples							
Copper (ppm) – 90 th Percentile ppm	AL= 1.3	1.3	0.146	0 (Sites over AL)	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppm) – 90 th Percentile ppb	AL= 15ppb	0	2.6 ppb	0 (Sites over AL)	2018	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Important Drinking Water Definitions

- MCL (Maximum Contaminate Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's 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.
- MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of 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 contamination.
- AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant, which, is exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- NA: Not applicable
- ND: Not detected
- ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.
- ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.
- pCi/L (picocuries per liter): Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- TT (Treatment Technique): A required process of intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.