



# VALPARAISO WATER QUALITY REPORT 2023

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:dujohnson@valpo.us)

VALPARAISO CITY UTILITIES  
205 BILLINGS STREET  
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

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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 household spends more than \$1,000 per year on its water and sewer bill. You could save about \$380 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 bath room 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](http://www.valparaisoutilities.org). The U.S. EPA Office of Water website [water.epa.gov](http://water.epa.gov) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website [www.cdc.gov](http://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](http://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 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](mailto: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	YEAR SAMPLED	UNITS OF MEASURE	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	AMOUNT RANGE	MCL VIOLATION	POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECT	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium	2023	ppm	2	2	0.059	0.041-0.059	NO	Increase in blood pressure	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	2023	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1.3	0.2 - 1.3	NO	Eye/nose irritation, stomach discomfort	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride* (adjusted)	2023	ppm	4	4	0.8	0.7 - 0.8	NO	Bone disease; children may get mottled teeth	Erosion of natural deposits; Drinking water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nickel	2023	ppm	UNREGULATED	NA	0.0017	0.0015-0.0017	NO	Long term exposure can cause heart and liver damage	Smelting & refining and steel works industries
Nitrate	2023	ppm	10	10	0.17	0 - 0.17	NO	May cause shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome for infants	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (total)	2023	ppm	0.1	0.1	0.0021	0.0016-0.0021	NO	May cause allergic dermatitis if using water with chromium in excess of MCL over many years	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	2023	ppb	80	NA	25	10 - 31	NO	Liver, kidney or central nervous system problems; increased risk of cancer	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	2023	ppb	60	NA	9	3 - 12	NO	Increased risk of cancer	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

## SUBSTANCE TESTED FOR AT CUSTOMER'S TAP

SUBSTANCE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNITS OF MEASURE	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	ACTION LEVEL(AL)	90TH PERCENTILE	AMOUNT RANGE	AL VIOLATION	POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECT	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper	2023	ppm	0	1.3	0.5	0 - 0.8	NO	Gastrointestinal distress	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	2023	ppb	0	15	6	0 - 14	NO	Children: Delays in physical or mental development. Adults: Kidney problems	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

\*Information on fluoride and preparation of infant formula can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/faqs/infant-formula.html>

## Table Definitions:

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

**Amount Average:** This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the reporting year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

**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).

**Amount Range:** This column represents a range of individual samples results, from lowest to highest, that were 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

Thanks to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the United States arguably has the safest water supply and distribution system in the world. However, if you have special health requirements, you should know 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Special Information on 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. VCU 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 thirty (30) seconds to two (2) minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If concerned about lead in your water, you may have your water tested. For more information on lead in drinking water, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.