IN5223002
City of Covington Water Department
2026 Consumer Confidence Report

Important Information for the Spanish-speaking population

Este informe contien informacion muy importante sobre la calidad del agua potable que usted comsume. Por faavor traduacalo, o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien y pueda explicarle.

Is our water safe?

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the drinking water that we provided last year (2025). Included as part of this report are details about where the water that you drink comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana standards. We are committed to provide you with all the information that you need to know about the quality of the water that you drink.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplant, people with HIV/AIDS or other kind of 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 has set guidelines with appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants which are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Where does our water come from?

Our water source is the three Wells that draw water from the Wabash River Basin located on the West Side of the Wabash River in Warren County.

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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk or that it is not suitable for drinking. More information about contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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, or can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the raw, untreated water may 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 that result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, and mining or farming operations.

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and also from residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and production operations, and can also, result from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants that may be present in the water provided by public drinking water systems. We are required to treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Moreover, FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants that may be present in bottled water, which must provide the same level of health protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these 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, 2025. 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, though representative of the water quality, may however be more than one year old.

Some of the terms and abbreviations used in this report are:

MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
AL	Action level, the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements or action which a system must follow.
TT	Treatment Technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a Contaminant in drinking water.
ppm	parts per million, a measure for concentration equivalent to milligrams per liter.
ppb	parts per billion, a measure for concentration equivalent to micrograms per liter
pCi/L	picocuries per liter, a measure for radiation.
n/a	either not available or not applicable.
ND	not detected, the result was not detected at or above the analytical method detection level.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average

Section I – Contaminants Detected

Had 0 positive monthly sample for Total Coliform in 2025. Retested with negative result. No violation.

Inorganic Contaminants

Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Violates	Likely Sources
9/09/24	Barium	2	2	ppm	0.244	N	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries, and erosion of natural deposits.
9/09/24	Fluoride	4	4	ppm	0.196	N	Erosion of natural deposits, Water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
9/08/25	Nitrate (as N)	10	10	ppm	2.05	N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

8/12/25	Copper (90th Percentile)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	ppm	0.237 Zero results above AL	N	Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives, corrosion of household plumbing systems
8/12/25	Lead (90th Percentile)	15	0	ppb	1.80 Zero results above AL	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfeed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of the persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our system 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, 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. Our system was required to complete a service line inventory in 2024. You can view this inventory online at https://idem.120water-ptd.com/.

Disinfection Byproducts & Precursors							
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Violates	Likely Sources
9/08/25	Total Halo acetic Acids (haa5)	60	0	ppb	6.70	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
9/08/25	Total Trihalomethanes (tthm)	80	0	ppb	19.4	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Radiological Contaminants							
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Violates	Likely Sources
9/07/20	Gross Alpha	15	0	pCi/L	1.2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
7/06/20	Radium 226	<5	0	pCi/L	1.4	N	Erosion of natural deposits
9/07/20	Radium 228	<5	0	pCi/L	0.88	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminants							
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Violates	Likely Sources
9/09/24	Sodium	n/a	n/a	ppm	13.5	N	Erosion of natural deposits, leaching.

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.

The City of Covington completed its Phase II Wellhead Protection Plan in November 2015. It was updated in November of 2025.

Public Involvement Opportunities

If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please contact Mr. Greg Myers at 765-793-4955. Or you can join us at a City Council Meeting, which are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m., except when otherwise announced to the general public. This meeting takes place at the City Utility Office, 329 Washington Street.

Please Share This Information

Large water volume customers (like apartment complexes, hospitals, schools, and/or industries) are encouraged to post extra copies of this report in conspicuous locations or to distribute them to your tenants, residents, patients, students, and/or employees. This "good faith" effort will allow non-billed customers to learn more about the quality of the water that they consume.