

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## The Water We Drink

### Akron Water ~ July 1, 2019

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from 2 deep gravel packed wells.

We have a source water assessment plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Aaron Gearhart at 574-893-4123. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 206 West Rochester St. Akron, IN.

Akron Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring from the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts

of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - (mandatory language) The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**Detected Level:** The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or on an average of values depending on the contaminant.

**Range:** The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested or no range is required for this report then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
20. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	.32	ppm	.20	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
11. Barium	N	0.340	ppm	0.040	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
15. Copper	N	.852	Ppm 0.335	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Fluoride	N		ppm	0.1	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
18. Lead	N	0.5	Ppb 0.0005	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>						
28. Atrazine	N		ppb	0.3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
74. TTHM <sup>3</sup> [Total trihalomethanes]	N	30.1	ppb	0.5	80 or 100	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5's (Total Halocetic Acids)	N	13.6	ppb	9.9	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. 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 sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottles waters) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As the 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- (B) Nonorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or the result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- (D) 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.
- (E) 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits

for contaminants in bottles 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. 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 the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**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. Akron 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>.

**TTHM**(Total Trihalomethanes) Some people who drink water containing trihalometanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

#### **Wellhead Protection**

The Akron Water Works has implemented a State-approved Wellhead Protection Program to minimize the risk of contamination to the groundwater pumped by our wells. By identifying potential sources of contamination, working to prevent spills, and preparing a contingency plan to be used in the event of contamination, the Water Works helps ensure the safety of your drinking water. If you would like to learn more about Akron's Wellhead Protection Program, please contact our office.

*Please call our office if you have questions. 574-893-4123*

**“We Count Every Drop”**

