

## What's the Quality of My Water?

Schererville Water Department is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2020. Schererville Water Department's drinking water supply surpassed the strict regulations of both the State of Indiana and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to produce reports like this every year to each customer.

In 2020 our water department distributed 1,192,091,000 gallons of water to our customers. We purchase pretreated water from Indiana-American Water company which relies on surface water from Lake Michigan. Indiana-American Water Company treats your water using chloramines as part of the disinfection process that protects you from microbial contamination.

Chloramines are a combination of chlorine and a small amount of ammonia that are used to kill potentially harmful bacteria in water. Used in water treatment plants throughout the country for decades, it is widely considered to be a more stable water disinfectant than chlorine. Chloramines do not leave a distinctive chlorine taste or odor, so many people actually prefer the taste of chloraminated water to chlorinated water.

Chloramines also act as a protective barrier against contamination as treated water moves throughout the water distribution system.

Although chloramination is a very effective means of water treatment, it can be toxic when introduced directly into the bloodstream. Chloramines, therefore, must be removed before use in kidney dialysis machines, or in fish tanks and ponds.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has developed a plan for the assessment of all public water systems' surface water and ground water sources throughout the state. The state's plan identifies potential contaminant sources. Please share your views with us if you are interested in environmental water quality issues by calling our designated water quality person listed in this report.

It may be necessary to make improvements in the water system in order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply.

## Water Quality Statement

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or was better than, all state and federal drinking water requirements. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table, showing what substances were detected in your drinking water during 2020. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

## 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, 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, which may come from a variety of 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, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and 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 Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact:

Jeffrey Huet, Public Works Director or Chad Nondorf, Utility Foreman & Licensed Water Operator by calling 219-322-6688, or by writing to this address:  
10 E. Joliet St., Schererville, IN 46375  
or go to the newly designed town website at:  
[www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

## We Want our Valued Customers to be Informed about their Water Utility.

You can attend regularly scheduled public meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, in Schererville Town Hall at 10 E. Joliet St., Schererville.

## 2021 Town Boards

### Schererville Town Council

President and Ward 3 Councilman ..... Rob Guetzloff  
Vice President and Ward 4 Councilman .... Thomas Schmitt  
Councilwoman for Ward 1 ..... Robin Arvanitis  
Councilman for Ward 2 ..... Kevin Connelly  
Councilman for Ward 5 ..... Caleb Johnson

### Waterworks Board

President ..... Robin Arvanitis  
Vice President ..... Kevin Connelly  
Member ..... Thomas Schmitt

### Utility Board

President ..... Thomas Schmitt  
Vice President ..... Rob Guetzloff  
Member ..... Kevin Connelly  
Member ..... Robin Arvanitis  
Member ..... Caleb Johnson

**Clerk-Treasurer** ..... Mike Troxell  
**Town Engineer** ..... NIES Engineering  
**Town Manager** ..... Robert Volkmann  
**Director of Operations** ..... Jim Gorman  
**Public Works Director** ..... Jeffrey Huet  
**Utility Foreman/Water Operator** ..... Chad Nondorf

### Town of Schererville

10 E. Joliet Street • Schererville, IN 46375-2011  
[www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org)

### Water Information Sources

Indiana American Water • [www.indianaamwater.com](http://www.indianaamwater.com)

Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management  
[www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem)

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

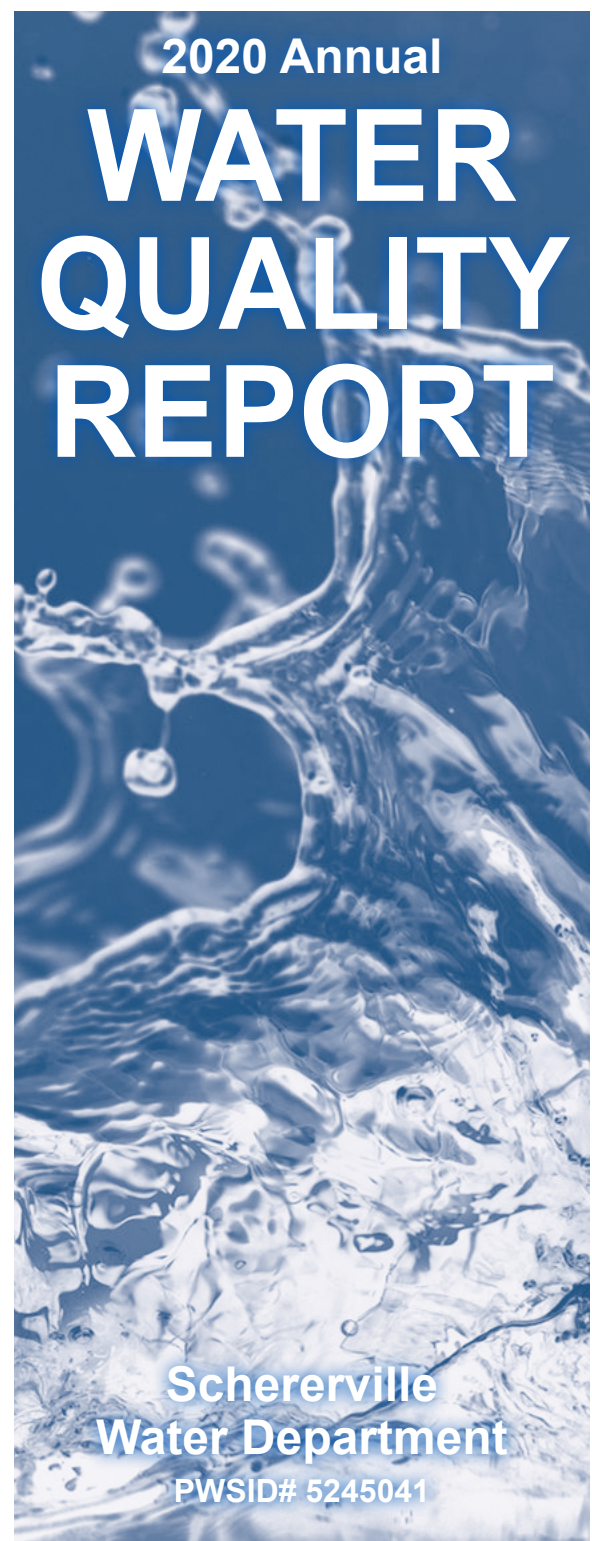
Safe Drinking Water Hotline • (800) 426-4791

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

American Water Works Association • [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

Water Quality Association • [www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org)

National Library of Medicine/National Institute of Health  
[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus)



# Water Quality Results: Town of Schererville Water Department

## Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results Sampled by Town of Schererville Water Department

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Number of Samples Taken	Compliance Achieved	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm) <sup>1</sup>	2020	1.3	1.3	0.1298	30	Yes	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2020	0.0	15.0	0.9	30	Yes	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**\*\*AS REQUIRED BY IDEM, LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLES WERE TAKEN IN 2020 AND ARE DUE TO BE TAKEN THE SUMMER OF YEAR 2023. (EVERY 3 YEARS)**

"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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the varieties 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>."

## Disinfection Byproduct Compliance Sampling (D.B.P.) (Measured in the Distribution System) by Town of Schererville Water Department

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections (Low-High)	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes - TTHM (ppb)	2020	NA	80	27.0	17.2-36.2	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids - HAA5 (ppb)	2020	NA	60	13.0	7.0-17.6	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Bacterial Results (Measured in the Distribution System) by Town of Schererville Water Department

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Coliform (1 positive sample)	2020	0	more than 5% of samples/month	No	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

# Water Quality Results: Indiana American Water Company

## Unregulated Substances: Measured in the Water Leaving the Treatment Facilities

Substances	Year Sampled	Level Found	Range (Low-High)	Typical Source
Hardness (ppm)	2020	143	134-152	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2020	11.0	10.2-11.0	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	24.7	23.9-24.7	Erosion of Natural Deposits

## Other Unregulated Compounds: Measured in the Raw Water Prior to Treatment

Substances	Year Sampled	Level Found	Range (Low-High)	Typical Source
Bromide (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	2019	0.04	ND-0.04	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (ppm) <sup>3</sup>	2019	2.003	1.739-2.003	Naturally present in the environment

## Unregulated Substances: Measured in the Distribution System

Substances	Year Sampled	Level Found	Range (Low-High)	Typical Source
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	4.0	1.9-4.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	3.7	1.3-3.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	1.2	0.67-1.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	1.3	0.59-1.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	7.7	4.1-7.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	0.41	ND-0.41	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2019	7.3	3.5-7.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>2</sup>The value reported under "Level Found" is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than of equal to 1.0 indicates that the water is in compliance with TOC removal requirements.

<sup>3</sup>Monitored under UCMR4, the EPA has not set drinking water standards for these contaminants.

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## Turbidity: A measure of the Clarity of the water at the Treatment Facilities

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>	2020	TT=Single result >1 NTU	0	0.13	Yes	Soil Runoff
Turbidity % meeting standards	2020	TT=95% of samples ≤0.3 NTU	NA	100%	Yes	Soil Runoff

## Regulated Substances: Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facilities

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Maximum Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Flouride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.53	0.49-0.53	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.41	0.37-0.41	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; industrial or domestic wastewater discharges; erosion of natural deposits.

## Total Organic Carbon Removal: Measured within the Treatment Facilities

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range Low-High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon (Removal Ratio) <sup>2</sup>	2020	TT	NA	1.0	NA	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

## Disinfectant Residual: Measured in the Distribution System

Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MRDL	MRDLG	Level Found	Range Low-High	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Chloramines (ppm)	2019	4	4	2.1	2.0-2.3	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

## The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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

## Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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):** 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 Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**90th Percentile:** 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

**MREH (millirems):** a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of clarity.

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**PPB (parts per billion):** micrograms per liter (ug/l).

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**PPM (parts per million):** milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**MD:** Not detectable at testing limits.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** a measure of radioactivity.

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control.