2025 Water Quality Report

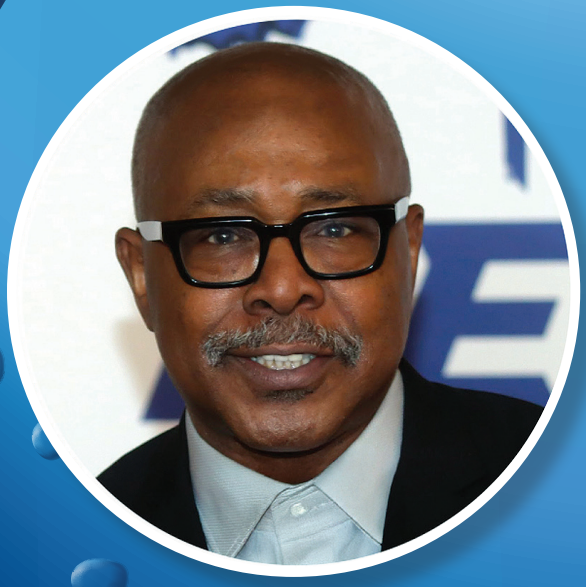
EAST CHICAGO WATER WORKS
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID: IN5245012

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Visit eastchicago.com/258/Water-Department to download a PDF of this report.



SAFE DRINKING WATER

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien).

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. East Chicago's raw drinking water comes from Lake Michigan surface water.

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.

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.

INFO: More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, 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, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection.



HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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

WATER QUALITY IN INDIANA

Public Water Systems must follow federal and state safe drinking water regulations, which includes checking water for bacteria and unsafe chemicals and sending those test results to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Learn more at www.in.gov/idem.

DEFINITIONS

In the tables below, you will find terms and abbreviations that might not sound familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 or 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 or 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



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

Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Avg: Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb: micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

na: not applicable.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

LEAD AND COPPER	PERIOD	90TH PERCENTILE: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	RANGE OF SAMPLED RESULTS (LOW - HIGH)	UNIT	AL SITES	OVER AL	TYPICAL SOURCE
COPPER, FREE	2021 - 2024	0.093	0.0017 - 0.12	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2021 - 2024	8	0 - 28	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 associated with service lines and home plumbing. East Chicago Water Works is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing. 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,

CONCERNS? If you are concerned about lead in your water, please contact the East Chicago Water Department at (219) 391-8469 or email **ecwater@eastchicago.com** to have your water tested.

INFO: Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at **www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**.

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

Mayor Anthony Copeland has prioritized replacing lead service lines in order to safeguard the health and safety of residents, with an overall goal of improving the quality of life of East Chicagoans. Property owners can visit **eastchicago.com/258/Water-Department** for more information on this important project.

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 391-8469 or email ecwater@eastchicago.com.



LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Public Transparency Dashboard (PTD) is using a map-based tool to ensure the public accessibility of service line inventories submitted by public water systems. It displays service line locations, material types and relevant contact information for public water systems.

INFO: Visit **idem.120water-ptd.com** to learn more.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS (CONTINUED)

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	PERIOD	HIGHEST RAA	RANGE	UNIT	MCL	MCLG	TYPICAL SOURCE
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) 1202 W. 148th St.	2025	11	10.6	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) 1203 W. 151st St.	2024-2025	14	10.7	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) 400 E. Chicago Ave.	2024-2025	12	12.1	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) 5624 Northcote 5507 Wegg	2024-2025	11	8 - 10.9	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM 1202 W. 148th St.	2025	40	60.42	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM 1203 W. 151st St.	2024-2025	39	53.11	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM 400 E. Chicago Ave.	2024-2025	37	37.16	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM 5624 Northcote 5507 Wegg	2024-2025	38	47.24	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST VALUE	RANGE	UNIT	MCL	MCLG	TYPICAL SOURCE
BARIUM	1/26/2025	0.022	0.022	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM	1/26/2025	1.1	1.1	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE	1/26/2025	0.11	0.11	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE	1/26/2025	0.4	0.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRITE	1/26/2025	0.4	0.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTANTS

Our water system tested a minimum of 30 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

DISINFECTANT	DATE	HIGHEST RAA	RANGE	UNIT	MRDL	MRDLG	TYPICAL SOURCE
CHLORINE	2025	1	0.19-1.88	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water caused by suspended particles.
We monitor is because it is a good indicator

PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES IN COMPLIANCE WITH STD.	MONTHS OCCURRED	VIOLATION	HIGHEST SINGLE MEASUREMENT	MONTH	SOURCES	LEVEL INDICATOR
100	12	No	0.15	October	Treatment Plant #2 - new plant	Yes

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

TOC	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST VALUE	RANGE	UNIT	TT	TYPICAL SOURCE
CARBON, TOTAL	7/8/2025	2.02	1.68-2.02	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

VIOLATIONS

During the period covered by this report, East Chicago reported the two violations noted below.

VIOLATION PERIOD	ANALYTE	VIOLATION TYPE	VIOLATION EXPLANATION
12/31/2023 - 1/21/2025	LEAD & COPPER RULE	LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR)	Failed to meet content, delivery, and/or reporting requirements for lead consumer notification
8/31/2025 - 9/29/2025	E. COLI	REPORT SAMPLE RESULT/ FAIL MONITOR RTCR	Failed to provide coliform sample results to state or provide notification monitoring violation occurred

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

For opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, the East Chicago Board of Water Works holds its regularly scheduled meetings at 5 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at City Hall, 4525 Indianapolis Blvd., 2nd Floor, East Chicago, IN 46312, in which the public may attend.

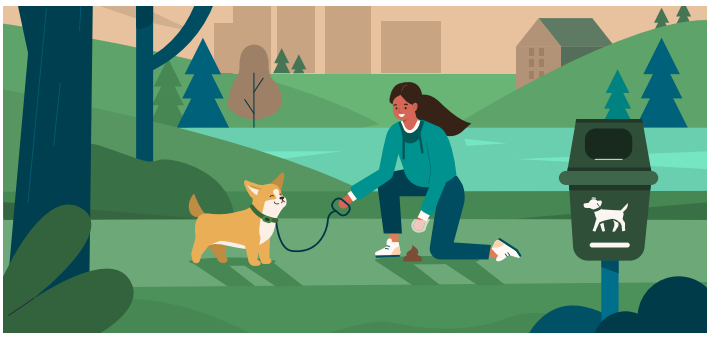
HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

The City of East Chicago, volunteer groups, water quality professionals and ordinary people are working together to clean up our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. You can help! Even if you live in a big city, you can prevent nonpoint source pollution by taking simple actions on your property or in your community. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management offers some simple solutions to a big problem. Together, we can all make a difference!

GIVE WATER MORE PLACES TO GO

In urban areas, land development and impermeable pavement increases storm water run-off, and subsequently the volume of flow when storm water enters bodies of water. This increase can impact the environment through downstream flooding, stream bank erosion, and increased nonpoint source pollution. You can do things on your property that can hold onto storm water like a sponge, giving it time to infiltrate into ground water:

- Plant a rain garden to catch and infiltrate excess storm water as it flows across your yard.
- Connect your downspouts to rain barrels and then use that water to irrigate landscape during dry periods. Make sure the barrel's overflow goes to a pervious surface like a garden or yard instead of your driveway.
- When it's time to replace your driveway, use some type of porous pavement. These materials allow storm water to soak through and infiltrate into the ground.



PICK UP PET WASTE

It's simple to reduce nonpoint source pollution from pet waste – just pick up after your pet. Pet waste contributes to nutrient and E. coli nonpoint source pollution. Pet stores and large retail stores carry small plastic or biodegradable bags for picking up pet waste.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS

The public can keep oils and chemicals out of local streams by utilizing and supporting local toxic drop-off sites, maintaining vehicles to reduce leaks and never pouring any materials down a storm drain.

USE LAWN/GARDEN FERTILIZER WISELY

Read the label before using lawn and garden fertilizer. Fertilizer is composed of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The content of each is usually listed as a string of three numbers on the fertilizer bag. Although garden plants need varying levels of each chemical to grow properly, Indiana's soil provides plenty of phosphorus for established lawns.

- Using fertilizer with low or no phosphorous for established lawns will keep it green and minimize the impact on water quality.
- Starter fertilizer should only be used when growing grass from seeds.
- When you apply fertilizers, make sure you follow the directions. Over-application and sloppy application leads to fertilizer washing from lawns, sidewalks and streets into storm drains.

THINK BEFORE YOU DIG

Construction sites that disturb one acre or more of land are required to use best practices to keep sediment out of water bodies. Although it's likely your backyard project won't come close to the one acre size limit, it's still a good idea to avoid leaving bare soil on your property. If you need to disturb the soil for any reason, reseed and replant bare ground as soon as possible to keep soil on your yard and out of streams, rivers and lakes.

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SMART PRACTICES SAVE WATER & ENERGY

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average family can save **38,000 gallons of water per year** by retrofitting with Water Sense fixtures (toilets, faucets, showerheads) and ENERGY STAR appliances (clothes washers, dishwashers). **This amount of water can supply an average family for more than five months.** Here are a few smart practices that can save water – and energy!



IN THE BATHROOM

Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save four gallons of water per day and, while shaving can save five gallons of water per shave. Assuming you brush your teeth twice daily and shave give times per week, you could save **nearly 2,000 gallons per year**.

IN THE KITCHEN

Scraping dishes rather than rinsing them before placing them in the dishwasher could save five gallons of water per dishwasher load. This could save the average family **more than 600 gallons of water per year** or **100 dishwasher loads of dishes**.

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Eliminating one load of laundry per week by washing only full loads could save the average family **more than 1,600 gallons of water per year**, which is enough to take **100 showers**.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency