



**2011 Consumer
Confidence Report**



City of Plymouth Water Department

900 Ledyard Street
Plymouth, IN 46563
Office: (574) 936 – 2543
Fax: (574) 936 – 3856

Public Water Supply ID Number: 5250010
Member American Water Works Association

2011 Drinking Water Quality Report

It is time, once again, for the City of Plymouth Water Department's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) regulate this report. To ensure safe drinking water for our community, the IDEM and the EPA monitor our compliance with the many regulatory standards. This report contains the latest water quality testing results that have been submitted to the IDEM and the EPA.

A large type version of this report is available by contacting the Water Department.

Este reporte de agua contiene una informacion importante.
Por favor tenga alguien que se lo traduzca a usted.

We are proud to report that the water quality provided by your Plymouth Water Department has met or exceeded the quality standards established at the State and Federal levels.

The City of Plymouth's water comes from ground water that is pumped from deep wells. This water has a substantial quantity of Iron and Manganese, which the treatment facilities are designed to remove by oxidation (making the Iron and Manganese into solid particles) and filtration. Fluoride is added to the water to protect dental health, and Chlorine is added for disinfection. We test the Iron, Manganese, Fluoride, and Chlorine levels at the plants daily, and we test the distribution system for adequate levels of Chlorine daily. All of this information is reported to the IDEM monthly. For more information about the City of Plymouth Water Department, please contact Jeff Yeazel, Assistant Superintendent, at (574) 936 – 2543 or at water@plymouthin.com

Water is our most precious natural resource. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent the pollution of ground water, streams, lakes, and rivers. We desire public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The Water Works Board of Trustees meets every second and fourth Monday at the City Council Chambers at 124 N. Michigan St., (Garro St. entrance), at 6:00 pm. The public is invited.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why does my water occasionally look dark or rusty? The color or particles are caused by Iron and Manganese. It is not a health risk. There are many possible reasons, but generally it is caused by a sudden change in the direction of, or rate of flow of the water in the mains or household plumbing. Running a cold-water faucet, such as the bathtub, should correct the problem after a few minutes. If the problem continues, please contact us so that we can help.

Why do you flush the fire hydrants? We have a systematic program for flushing all of the hydrants in the city. This creates a high flow rate that helps to clean the inside of the mains and reduce dark or rusty water problems. We also use this opportunity to inspect each hydrant for proper operation.

Why does the water taste or smell different sometimes? Many people are regularly drinking bottled water which does not contain Chlorine, and this contributes to taste and smell issues. The tastes and odors are more evident when water is warm. Water that has been standing in household pipes long enough to warm may have a different taste. Run the tap until the water is cold, or better yet, keep a covered glass jar in the refrigerator.

Most regulated and unregulated substances monitored by the EPA are not detected in Plymouth's drinking water. IDEM allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations are not likely to change. Some of the data presented is more than one year old. Some substances were monitored more than once in 2010, or they were from several locations (Distribution TTHM) which required the averaging of the results and the listing of the range.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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. 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 that result from urban stormwater 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production operations, and can also result from gas stations, urban stormwater 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA regulates contaminant limits 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or the immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects, along with the EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 the other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

Inorganic Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
12/21/09	Barium	2	2	ppm	0.081	0.072	0.081		N	Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Valid Until 2011	Copper 90th % Value	1.3 (AL)	1.3	ppm	0.12				N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
12/21/09	Fluoride	4	4	ppm	0.9	0.7	0.9		N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Valid Until 2011	Lead 90th % Value	15 (AL)	0	ppb	4.6				N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Annual 2010	Nitrate measured as Nitrogen	10	10	ppm	0.1	0	0.1		N	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfection By-products										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
4 quarts in 2010	Total Haloacetic Acids (haa5)	60	0	ppb	8	1.1	15.4		N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
4 quarts in 2010	Total Trihalo-methanes (tthm)	80	0	ppb	19	2.5	29.6		N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Radiological Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
8/3/09	Uranium	30	0	ppb	1.1				N	Erosion of natural deposits
8/3/09	Gross Alpha	15	0	pci/l	2.3				N	Erosion of natural deposits
8/3/09	Gross Beta	50	0	pci/l	1.6				N	Decay of natural or man made deposits

Unregulated Contaminants										
Date	Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Units	Result	Min	Max	Above AL	Violates	Likely Sources
12/21/09	Nickel	n/a	100	ug/l	1.2	1.1	1.2		N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
12/21/09	Sodium	n/a		mg/l	7.0	4.5	7.0		N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
12/21/09	Sulfate	n/a		mg/l	67	51	67		N	

TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLING - we are mandated by the state for the size of our city to take 120 routine samples. They were collected at various locations throughout the city in the year of 2010. Also, all new mains are disinfected and tested before they are put into service.