

Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant

Fort Wayne's Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant was constructed in 1933 with a capacity to produce 24 million gallons of treated water per day (MGD). Major additions in 1955 and 1981 tripled the capacity of the plant to 72 MGD.

Not only does the plant provide drinking water to the residents of Fort Wayne, its supply also reaches residents of New Haven, Lutheran Hospital at Jefferson & I69, Parkview Hospital North, St. Joseph Hospital on Dupont Road, and AQUASOURCE customers in Aboite Township during the summer months.

The plant uses a combination of chemicals including: chlorine dioxide and chloramine for disinfection; lime and carbon dioxide for softening; ferric sulfate for flocculation; and powdered activated carbon to remove organic chemicals, pesticides, and odor-causing natural organic material. Rapid sand filtration removes particulate matter and cryptosporidium. Fluoride is added at a rate of 1 mg/L to help prevent tooth decay.



Taste, Odor & Turbidity

Unusual tastes and odors in drinking water can come from a number of sources: organic matter such as algae or decaying leaves or twigs, dissolved gasses, and industrial discharge. But a primary reason for odor in residential water is sludge buildup at the bottom of a home's hot water heater. Water heaters should be flushed annually to help control odors. Keep in mind that most complaints about taste and odor are received in the spring and fall when increased runoff from snowmelt and heavy rains, or the presence of leaves in the river may cause changes in the taste and odor of water. A stale tasting water generally means water has been sitting in the incoming water line for some time. Particularly after long weekends in the spring and fall, customers at the farthest point from the treatment plant may report a taste or odor. During those periods, water use goes down, so it takes fresh water longer to get to the outermost parts of the City.

Turbidity is generally thought of as the cloudiness of the water. It is caused by suspended matter such as clay, silt, algae, organic and inorganic material, and other microscopic organisms. The EPA has established a Maximum Contaminant Level for treated water turbidity of 0.3 NTU, and the Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant is committed to consistently keeping turbidity at 0.1 NTU or lower. Maintaining a turbidity level at better than the national standard helps assure that the filtration plant's drinking water is free of pathogens like Giardia and Cryptosporidium.

Who To Contact

Fort Wayne's Water Quality Hotline
(260) 427-2297

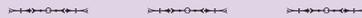
Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant
(260) 427-1254

Fort Wayne City Utilities Administration
(260) 427-1381

City Utilities Customer Service
(260) 427-1234

Water Maintenance & Service
(260) 427-1247

City of New Haven
(260) 748-7050



Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive

Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Phone: (260)484-5848 ext. 111

Fax: (260) 484-5080

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

DRINKING WATER IN YOUR COMMUNITY



A Reference Guide for Homeowners



*City of Fort Wayne • City of New Haven •
Allen County*



Clean, Safe Water

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The St. Joseph River is the sole source of drinking water for the residents served by the Fort Wayne City Utilities. Each day, an average of 34.9 million gallons of water is drawn from the river for treatment, filtration and distribution. Water flows into the St. Joseph River from a watershed that covers more than 694,000 square acres in northeast Indiana, northwest Ohio and south-central Michigan. Springs, creeks and runoff from rain and snow throughout the St. Joseph River watershed feed the river. During drought conditions, City Utilities may also draw upon the Hurshtown Reservoir. Water is brought to the Three Rivers Filtration Plant through the Cedarville and St. Joseph River dams. Raw water is pumped to the plant from the St. Joseph River dam located near North Anthony and Coliseum boulevards.

Fort Wayne City Utilities proudly reports that its water meets or is better than all state and federal water quality standards. In 2002, more than 12.09 billion gallons of drinking water were produced. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency



prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The FDA has established similar regulations limiting contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water possesses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How Can I Protect My Water Supply?

There are a multitude of practices a homeowner can adopt to reduce water pollution. These practices include:

Proper Lawn & Garden Care Test your soil to determine the amount of nutrients necessary to maintain a healthy lawn and garden. If you choose to use chemicals, follow the manufacturer's application directions to avoid over-applying. Tilling fertilizers into moist garden soil reduces the likelihood of runoff. Try tilling in compost or biosolids instead of commercial fertilizers.

Septic System Maintenance Pumping your septic tank regularly and having it inspected annually could possibly lower the cost of repairs and ensure that the system isn't leaking into the watershed's rivers and streams.

Choosing Native Plants Indigenous plant species generally require less watering, fertilizing, and pesticides than non-native species.

Conserve Water Using less water overall could mean less combined sewer overflows during wet weather.

Household Hazardous Waste Did you know that a single quart of motor oil can contaminate 2 million gallons of drinking water? By recycling your motor oil and other household hazardous waste, you protect your watershed. Your local Solid Waste Management District can provide you with details for possible household hazardous waste collections in your area.

Get Involved! You can help to educate your family, friends, and neighbors about the importance of protecting our water source. To become more involved, call the ACPWQ.