Annual Drinking Water Quality Report | 2026

Missoula Water MT0000294

Annual Water Quality 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.

For more information regarding this report please contact Paul Kati at 406-552-6700.

Public Participation Opportunities: Attend a city council meeting on the first Mondays of each month (excluding holidays) at 6:00pm in the city council chambers at 140 W. Pine Street, Missoula, MT.

Contact Us:

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Address:1345 W. Broadway Street Missoula MT 59802
Email: watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us
Website: ci.missoula.mt.us/1983/water
Facebook: facebook.com/missoulacitypwm

If you are a landlord, property manager, or know someone who is billed directly, please share this report with your tenants and friends.

State-Wide Waiver Program

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) created the Chemical Reduced Monitoring Waiver Program

in 1996 to reduce monitoring expenses for public water supplies (PWS) while still protecting public health. Due to the considerable population growth and expansion in intervening years, the presence of these analytes needs to be reevaluated. Missoula Water was required to monitor for endothall, diquat, glyphosate, ethylene dibromide (EDB), dibromochloropropane (DBCP), cyanide and PCBs from one entry point between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2023. Missoula Water records indicate that it is located within one mile of a potential or known dioxin site and therefore is required to sample for dioxin (2,3, 7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or 2,3,7,8-TCDD).In August 2020, Missoula Water collected the water samples for the above contaminates including Asbestos. In which, all analytical results came back as non-detect. In accordance with our monitoring schedule the next state-wide waiver monitoring will be conducted in 2029.

Additional Information

For additional information on Coronavirus in drinking water, Perfluorinated Compounds (PFAS), Lead or Household Water Quality. Please visit our web page at https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2242/Water-Quality.

Sources of Drinking Water

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.

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 EPAs 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 that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 healthcare 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.

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 we 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Information for Missoula Water

Which is Classified as a Ground Water System

The source water assessment report for your water system provides additional information on your source water's susceptibility to contamination. To access this report please go to: https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater.

On the webpage scroll down and look under the subtitle “Montana Source Water Protection Viewer” and click the blue box with the same name. This will open the Montana Source Water Protection Viewer in a new tab on your internet browser. Once in there, click the grey box called “Source Water Reports” at the top.

Missoula Water utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 08 SCHILLING GWIC 132857	Well
W 45 C HAUGAN 3 N GWIC 251976	Well
WELL 33 GERALD GWIC 69077	Well
WELL 32 ARTHUR GWIC 69078	Well
WELL 34 MAURICE GWIC 69063	Well
WELL 18 WILLOWWOOD GWIC 66872	Well
WELL 22 INTERMOUNTAIN GWIC 132841	Well
WELL 40 B LINDA VISTA 2 S GWIC 127528	Well
WELL 09 DIXON GWIC 69353	Well
WELL 11 AGNES GWIC 132860	Well
WELL 01 S 6TH ST W GWIC 151949	Well
WELL 19 NORTH RUSSELL GWIC132837/151948	Well
WELL 29 ORCHARD AVE GWIC 67046	Well
WELL 31 KIWANIS GWIC 69073	Well
WELL 21 EAST CENTRAL GWIC 132851	Well
WELL 13 MOUNTAINVIEW GWIC 68519	Well
WELL 20 CATLIN GWIC 132839	Well
WELL 30 BANK ST GWIC 132845	Well
WELL 039 23RD ST WEST GWIC 66867	Well
WELL 40 A LINDA VISTA 1 N 67309	Well
WELL 038 23RD ST EAST GWIC154873	Well
WELL 17 MOMONT GWIC 32891	Well
WELL 04 SOMMERS GWIC 132849	Well
WELL 10 HILDA GWIC 123850	Well
WELL 35 SOUTHGATE GWIC 132858	Well
WELL 26 BENTON GWIC 132834	Well
WELL 37 SOUTH 250 HP GWIC 68306	Well
WELL 02 S 14TH ST W GWIC 69155	Well
WELL 03 SOUTH AVE 100 HP GWIC 151950	Well
WELL 12 JUDI DR GWIC 132848	Well
WELL 46 GREAT NORTHERN GWIC 68413	Well
WELL 47 PALMER GWIC 68599	Well
WELL CANYON RIVER WELL GWIC 240491	Well
W 45 A HAUGAN 2 E GWIC 250507	Well
W 45 B HAUGAN 1 W GWIC 251974	Well
WELL 40 C LINDA VISTA 3 W GWIC 67310	Well

Water Quality Test Results Definitions

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

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

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running an annual average of monthly samples.

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 very 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 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 or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

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.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Ppt: Nanograms per liter or parts per trillion- or one ounce in 7,350,000,000 gallons of water.

ppb: Micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: Milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): SMCLs are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

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

The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	06-27-2023	1.3	1.3	0.198	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	06-27-2023	0	15	2	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant Group: Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2025	0.50	.4 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
The chlorine highest level detected reflects the highest running annual average calculated each month during the CCR year. The range is the min/max of the monthly average during the CCR year.								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	0.48	.29 - .48	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	3.3	1.3 - 3.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2025	2	ND - 2	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2025	0.48	.18 - .48	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2025	0.20	ND - .2	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	3.11	.34 - 3.11	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]	2025	0.01	ND - .01	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant Group: Radioactive Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	1.20	ND - 1.2	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2024	1.30	1.2 - 1.3	0	30	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary Contaminants

Secondary Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	SMCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination and or Reason for Monitoring
Chloride	2025	31	6 - 31	250	ppm	Likely Source of Contamination and/or Reason for Monitoring Residue from water treatment process: erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	2025	25	5 - 25	250	ppm	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
TDS	2025	299	143 - 299	500	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Lithium	2023-2025	15	ND - 15	PPB	Lithium occurs naturally in the environment and can be found in some ground and surface water used for drinking. The EPA uses a screening level of 10ppb which is 1,000 times lower than the health effects from medication.

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants as part of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard in the future.

As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Paul Kati 406-552-6700 email: Katip@ci.missoula.mt.us

Results can also be found by visiting the EPA's UCMR 5 Data Finder website:
https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder

PFAS Initial Monitoring

This section provides information on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in your drinking water, as required by the EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation. PFAS are synthetic chemicals that are known to persist in the environment and have potential health impacts. These results come from Missoula's baseline sampling as part of the 3M PFAS Settlement for water systems affected by PFAS. As shown below, our water is below EPA limits and meets all safety standards. The results show where PFAS are present at low levels, helping us plan for the future.

Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range	MCL	Units
PFOA	2.8	0 - 2.8	4.0	ppt
PFOS	3.5	0 – 3.5	4.0	ppt
Mixture HI*	0.27	0 – 0.27	1.0	ppt

*The PFAS Hazard Index (HI) assesses combined health risks from multiple PFAS compounds by summing their relative concentrations compared to health-based values, ensuring the total mixture does not exceed a safe threshold. Hazard Index (HI) applies to PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. Compliance requires HI ≤ 1.0.

No enforceable violations for PFAS MCL exceedances will be issued until the second quarter of 2029. EPA has proposed extending the MCL compliance deadline to 2031.

Health Effects:
Long-term exposure to PFAS may increase risks of developmental issues in infants and children, changes in liver and immune functions, increased cholesterol levels, and certain cancers. For more details, visit EPA's PFAS Health Effects page: https://www.epa.gov/pfas.