



# 2024 Consumer Confidence Report

## Montana PWS# 0000357

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to be informed of the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

In reviewing this report you will find that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Craig Workman, Public Works Director at (406) 863-2455. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:10 PM in the City Council chambers located at 418 E. 2nd Street.

### **General Drinking Water Source Information**

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 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 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 (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 City of Whitefish**

The City of Whitefish is classified as a *Surface Water* system and we use two water bodies to provide water - Haskill Basin (2nd & 3rd Creeks) and Whitefish Lake. The City of Whitefish Source Water Protection Plan is available in hard copy at City Hall or electronically at [www.cityofwhitefish.org/341/Water-Wastewater](http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/341/Water-Wastewater). A water filtration plant and Whitefish Lake pumping station were completed in November of 2000 at a total cost of over \$6.2M. The City completed a capacity expansion to the existing treatment plant in the fall of 2021 at a total cost of over \$9.3M. Financing for the project consisted of City reserves and a loan from the State Revolving Fund Program administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

### **Water Quality Test Results 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.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water, one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water, one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

**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. The most recent drinking water analytical data is tabulated below.

Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2022	1.3	1.3	0.62	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2022	0	15	2	1	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	2024	0.70	.6 - .89	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)	2024	44	16 - 57	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	36	15 - 41	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
Barium	2024	0.12	.12 - .12	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2024	0.02	.02 - .02	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2024	0.05	.05 - .05	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Total Organic Carbon**

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

**Turbidity**

	Date	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement (NTU)	6/28/2024	0.30	0.104	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2024	At least 95%	100%	N	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Secondary Contaminants						
Secondary Contaminant	Collection Year	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	SMCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination and or Reason for Monitoring
SULFATE	2024	1.10	1.1 - 1.1	250	ppm	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes