

Branco Court

PWS #MT0004568

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering from January 1 through December 31, 2022. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Your water supply is drawn from groundwater sources through 2 wells. There are 51 connections providing water to approximately 37 people daily. This naturally filtered water flows slowly through porous sand, gravel, and boulders and is drawn up to your distribution system through submersible pumps. Your aquifer is constantly being replenished through snowpack and precipitation. Static water levels vary according to the season and the amount of precipitation. DEQ has prepared a Source Water Delineation and Assessment report for our water system, and it can be found at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-sourcewater>. This report provides more information such as the potential sources of contamination to our drinking water supply.

Sanitary Survey

Sanitary survey inspections are due every 3 years. Your sanitary survey was performed in March 2022. These regular inspections allow the DEQ and your water operators a chance to ensure there are no sanitary deficiencies with your water system. There were no significant deficiencies during your last inspection.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Description of Water Treatment Process

There is no treatment associated with this PWS at this time.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Other Information

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether the drinking water meets health standards. We will not conduct monitoring or testing for asbestos because we have been granted a 9-year waiver by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Public Drinking Water Section. This waiver is for the compliance period 2020-2028 and is based on our certification that there are no asbestos containing materials in the distribution system of the public water supply.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

There was a violation in 2020, due to a clerical error. The combined radium and gross alpha samples were not drawn in the required timeframe. We did draw the samples in 2022. Post this on-site and continue the proper monitoring. Compliance was achieved in 2022, when the samples were drawn and reported.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Branco Court is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.04	0.04	0.04	02/07/2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.02 (90 th Percentile)	NA	NA	07/16/2020	# Of sites over AL- 0 (no violation)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.27	0.27	0.27	02/07/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead - source water (ppb)	0	AL=15	1 (90 th Percentile)	NA	NA	07/16/2020	# Of sites over AL- 0 (no violation)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.09	0.09	0.09	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	0	15	2.1	2.1	2.1	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Term	Definition							
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)							
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)							
NA	NA: not applicable							
ND	ND: Not detected							
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.							
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.							
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.							
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.							
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.							
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.							
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.							
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.							
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated							
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level							

For more information please contact:



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