



Mountain Water Company Consumer Confidence Report 2007/2008 Annual Water Quality Report

WHAT KIND OF CONTAMINANTS MIGHT BE FOUND IN DRINKING WATER?

In 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act was amended to require all community water systems to deliver an annual water quality report to their customers. This year's report includes information on your source water, the levels of any detected contaminants, compliance with drinking water rules, and articles relating to our source water assessment and pharmaceuticals in water supplies.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The federal Food and Drug Administration and DEQ regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

This report describes those contaminants that have been detected in our analysis of nearly 100 potential contaminants which are regulated by the EPA and the DEQ.

Mountain Water Company (MWC) is proud to tell you that there have been no contaminants detected in our water that exceed any federal or state drinking water standards. All primary (health related) and secondary (aesthetic) drinking water standards are being met.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Because there have been no confirmed findings of synthetic organic chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) in MWC wells, DEQ has allowed us to reduce the level of monitoring for these chemicals. This waiver has resulted in a significant reduction in monitoring costs. This monitoring waiver is reviewed every three years by DEQ.

This report is intended to provide information for all water users. If received by an absentee landlord, a business, or a school, please share the information with tenants, employees or students. We will be happy to make additional copies of this report available. Complete records of water quality analyses are open for inspection by the public upon request.

You may also access this report on the Mountain Water Company web page at www.mtnwater.com.

If you would like more information about water quality, please call: Brad Hafar or Arvid Hiller at (406) 721-5570.

Mountain Water Company

2007/2008 Annual Water Quality Results

Water Quality Parameters Detected in Mountain Water Company Sources

PRIMARY STANDARDS -- Health-related	Federal MCL	MCLG	Units of Measurement	MWC Range (including highest value)	Average for MWC Wells (a)	Date of Last Measurement MWC (b)	Potential Sources of Contamination
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INORGANIC CHEMICALS

Arsenic	10	0	ppb	ND-2	ND	2005/06/07	Erosion of natural deposits; historical mining and smelting.
Barium	2	2	ppm	0.2 - 0.5	0.24	2005/06/07	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; discharge from oil drilling wastes.
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	<0.1-0.22	0.16	2005/06/07	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer factories.
Nitrate	10	10	ppm	0.39-2.56	0.76	2007	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewers.

RADIONUCLIDES

Gross Alpha	15	0	pCi/L	ND - 2.0	ND	2007	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (Radium 226 + Radium 228)	5	0	pCi/L	ND - 3.6	ND	2007	Erosion of natural deposits.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE MONITORING	Federal Action	Number of Samples	Units of Measurement	MWC Range (including highest value)	Amount Detected at 90th Percentile*	Date of Last Measurement MWC (b)	Potential Sources of Contamination
Copper	1.3	30	ppm	0.05-0.58	0.31	2007	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	15	30	ppb	ND-5	4	2007	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM							Potential Sources of Contamination
Chlorine Residual	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	ppm	0.18-0.74	0.37	2007	Added for disinfection purposes.
Total Coliform Bacteria	5% Positive	0	%present	0-1.5 %	<1%	2007	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	80	NS	ppb	1.0-4.6	3	2007	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA-5)	60	NS	ppb	ND-0.82	ND	2007	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

SECONDARY STANDARDS --Aesthetic, non-health standards CHEMICAL PARAMETERS	Federal MCL	MCLG	Units of Measurement	MWC Range (including highest value)	Average for MWC Wells (a)	Date of Last Measurement MWC (b)	Potential Sources of Contamination
Chloride	250	NS	ppm	4-18	8	2005/06/07	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Iron	300	NS	ppb	ND - 30	ND	2005/06/07	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.
Sulfate	250	NS	ppm	<1-19	16	2005/06/07	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500	NS	ppm	161-274	204	2005/06/07	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Zinc	5,000	NS	ppb	ND-20	ND	2005/06/07	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

pH	6.5 - 8.5	NS	units	7.2 - 7.9	7.6	2005/06/07	Hydrogen ion concentration. Value greater than 7 is basic (non-acidic).
Turbidity / clarity	5.0	NS	NTU	0.01-1.5	0.40	2005/06/07	Soil runoff.

Mountain Water Company

2007/2008 Annual Water Quality Results

Detected Unregulated Chemicals That May Be of Interest to Consumers**

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS Unregulated	Federal MCL	MCLG	Units of Measurement	MWC Range (including highest value)	Average for MWC Wells (a)	MWC Date of Last Measurement (b)
Aggressiveness Index (c)	NS	NS	units	11.4 - 12.3	11.9	2005/06/07
Alkalinity (as Ca CO ₃)	NS	NS	ppm	143-208	159	2005/06/07
Calcium	NS	NS	ppm	40-57	48	2005/06/07
Corrosivity (Langlier Index) (d)	NS	NS	positive/negative	(- 0.4) - (+ 0.4)	+0.17	2005/06/07
Hardness (Ca CO ₃)	NS	NS	ppm	150-221	176	2005/06/07
Hardness	NS	NS	grains	8.8-12.9	10.3	2005/06/07
Magnesium	NS	NS	ppm	11-21	13	2005/06/07
Potassium	NS	NS	ppm	1-3	2.0	2005/06/07
Sodium	NS	NS	ppm	5-17	7.2	2005/06/07
Specific Conductance	NS	NS	micromho/cm	315-491	366	2005/06/07

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND FOOTNOTES

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

NA = Not applicable at this time or not required to analyze

ND = Not detected

NS = No standard

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units. This is a measure of the suspended material in water.

* = Action Levels are measured at the 90th percentile sample (third highest reading out of thirty samples for lead and copper).

** = Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

ppm = parts per million

ppb = parts per billion

pCi/L=picoCuries per liter

(a) = The average is weighted according to the individual contribution in pumping by each well to the total (active wells only).

(b) = The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater sources do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

(c) = An Aggressiveness Index of 11 or greater indicates that the water is not aggressive (noncorrosive).

(d) = A positive number Langlier Index indicates that the water is noncorrosive.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL):

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):

The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):

The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health.



MOUNTAIN WATER COMPANY

Providing quality water and dependable service to the Missoula community at a reasonable price.

Mountain Water Company

P.O. Box 4826

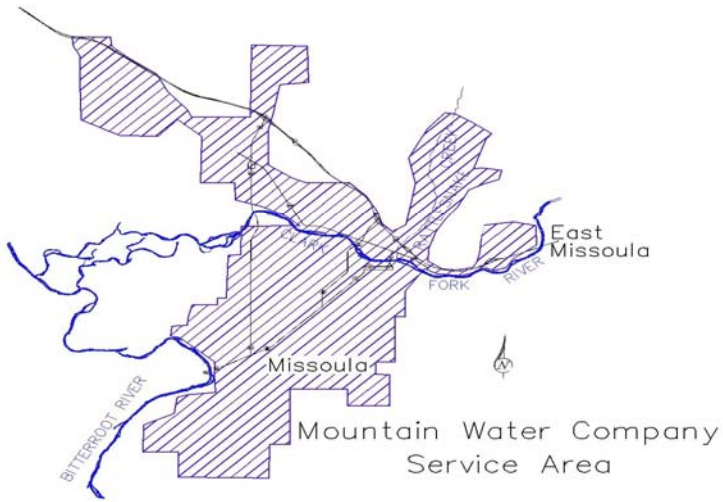
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WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?



Mountain Water Company serves the greater Missoula area. The Missoula aquifer is currently the only active source of public drinking water for Missoula Valley residents. MWC utilizes 35 active wells to pump water from this aquifer. The only treatment performed by MWC is low-level disinfection with chlorine.

Rattlesnake Creek lies just north of Missoula and, under the guidance of the DEQ, serves as an alternative source available for use in special situations. Rattlesnake Creek is a surface water supply originating in the Rattlesnake Wilderness area and emptying in the Clark Fork River. Strict environmental conditions are maintained in the watershed to preserve the quality of this source.

Source Water Delineation and Assessment

As required by the EPA in 2003, a Source Water Delineation and Assessment report was completed for MWC and submitted to the DEQ and the EPA. We utilized this report as an opportunity to update our Wellhead Protection Program with the latest information and technologies in modeling and mapping with linked databases. This assessment resulted in an updated list of possible contaminant sources to our aquifer, some of those being underground storage tanks, public and private sumps, leaking pipelines, spills along railroad tracks and highways, sewer lift stations and septic systems. This has resulted in a very useful tool for protection of our valuable drinking water supply. This report is available to the public at the DEQ, the Missoula City/County Health Department and at our office.

Pharmaceuticals in Missoula's Water?

Aware of the recent national attention regarding the issue of pharmaceuticals found in drinking water, MWC would like to address the subject for our consumers. In 2001 and 2004, a small number of water samples were taken of MWC water testing for several pharmaceutical compounds. The results of those tests showed that there were no detectable levels of pharmaceuticals in the MWC supply at that time.

To date, the national scientific community has not determined how pharmaceuticals found in water supplies may affect the average consumer. However, water safety for our customers and protection of the Missoula Aquifer are always top priorities for MWC, and in that spirit, we support ongoing local studies in this area. Please know that we are confident that this issue is being addressed not only nationally, but on a local level. As more information becomes available, we will be sure to communicate with the Missoula community.

