# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Flathead County Water and Sewer MT0001744

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 Mark James at (406) 257-5861, or by email at fieldops@evergreenwaterdistrict.com.

### Source Water Information

Our drinking water comes from 12 groundwater wells. They range in depth from 100 to 450 feet. Eight wells are located in the lower zone, and four wells are in the upper zone. The lower zone wells pump into two storage tanks with 2.6 million gallons of storage. The tanks provide pressure and serve the lower zone. The lower zone also has a booster pump station which allows water from the lower zone wells and storage tanks to be used in the upper zone during times of high demand. Our wells and booster station all have backup power generators. We have 3,808 service connections and added 85 new connections last year.

Public Participation Opportunities: We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. If you would like to learn more, our regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Wednesday each month at 7:00 a.m. at the district office, located at 108 Cooperative Way in Kalispell.

Your knowledge of our water system is important to us: If you have any questions, please contact Mark James at (406) 257-5861. Mark is our certified operator with 26 years of experience. Mark attended his most recent training courses in January of 2025, as he consistently meets his continuing education requirements through periodic training sessions.

# 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 some small amounts of 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 naturally occur 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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 people such as individuals with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 **Flathead County Water and Sewer**

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.

Flathead County Water and Sewer utilize the listed water sources below:

| Water Source Name | Water Source Type |
|---|---|
| WELL B2 BLUFF 1996 GWIC 156662 | Well |
| WELL B4 BLUFF 1995 GWIC 156697 | Well |
| WELL B3 BLUFF 1996 GWIC 156696 | Well |
| WELL 1 OFFICE BLDG 1967 GWIC 82066 | Well |
| WELL 1 EVERGREEN 1 1985 GWIC 173091 | Well |
| RESERVE WELL NO. 2 SOUTH GWIC 326737 | Well |
| WELL B1 BLUFF 1994 GWIC 146578 | Well |
| WELL 2 EVERGREEN 1 1994 GWIC 173078 | Well |
| WELL 4 EVERGREEN 2 2008 GWIC 243648 | Well |
| WELL 5 EVERGREEN 2 2008 GWIC 243650 | Well |
| RESERVE WELL NO. 1 NORTH GWIC 326735 | Well |
| WELL 3 EVERGREEN 1 1994 GWIC 173079 | 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.
**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 | 2025 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.09 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 2025 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 0 | ppb | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

## Coliform Bacteria

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No of Positive | Fecal Coliform or E Coli Maximum Contaminant Level | Total No of Positive E Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 positive monthly sample. | 1 | | 0 | N | Naturally present in the environment. |

## Regulated Contaminants

**Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants**

| Regulated Contaminants | Collection Year | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barium | 2025 | 0.22 | .22 - .22 | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride | 2025 | 0.10 | .1 - .1 | 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 | 0.33 | .2 - .33 | 10 | 10 | 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 | 2025 | 1.10 | ND - 1.1 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Uranium | 2025 | 1 | .9 - 1 | 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 | 3 | 2 - 3 | 250 | ppm | Likely Source of Contamination and/or Reason for Monitoring Residue from water treatment process: erosion of natural deposits |
| SULFATE | 2025 | 7.70 | 2 - 7.7 | 250 | ppm | Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |

Unregulated Contaminants: Our water system had ***NO*** detections of unregulated contaminants.

| Unregulated Contaminants | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unregulated Contaminant | Collection Year | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | Units | Likely Source of Contamination |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

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: Mark James (406) 257-5861, email fieldops@evergreenwaterdistrict.com

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