



Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

River Rock County Water & Sewer District MT0004082

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 Christine Clarkson at 406-581-8604.

Public Participation Opportunities: District Board Meeting are held on the third Thursday each month at 7:00 PM at the River Rock Community Center.

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.

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 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 River Rock County Water and Sewer District
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.

River Rock County Water and Sewer District utilizes the listed water sources below:

| Water Source Name | Water Source Type |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| WELL 2 GWIC 188865 | Well |
| WELL 3 GWIC 283159 | Well |
| WELL 1 1979 GWIC 90879 | 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 | 0.143 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 2025 | 0 | 15 | 2.81 | 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 | 0.90 | .63 - 1.4 | 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.

| Contaminant Group: Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---|
| Regulated Contaminants | Collection Year | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Arsenic | 2025 | 0.5440 | .544 - .544 | 0 | 10 | ppb | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Barium | 2025 | 0.0977 | .0977 - .0977 | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Fluoride | 2025 | 0.1550 | .155 - .155 | 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 | 1 | 1.07 - 1.47 | 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 | -0.13 | -.13 - -.13 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Gross Alpha, Excl. Radon & Uranium | 2025 | 6.51 | 6.51 - 6.51 | 0 | 15 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |

Unregulated Contaminants

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 click or enter the link here: riverrockwatersewer.com/UCMR_Compliance_Report.pdf.

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>.

Violations

Violation for Manganese

Manganese in drinking water can cause discoloration, unpleasant taste, and potential health effects if consumed at elevated levels. Regular monitoring ensures safe water quality and compliance with health advisories.

| Violation Type | Violation Period | Resolution Date | Violation Explanation |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR | 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024 | OPEN | We failed to test our drinking water for manganese during the required monitoring period. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the manganese levels in our drinking water during this time. |

A sample result has not been received by the State of Montana DEQ so the violation is still outstanding.

Violation for Montana State Chlorine Rule

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

| Violation Type | Violation Period | Resolution Date | Violation Explanation |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY | 02/01/2025 to 02/28/2025 | 05-10-2025 | We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this time. |

The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level.

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|--|
| STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY | 03/01/2025 to 03/31/2025 | 05-10-2025 | We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this time. |
| The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level. | | | |
| STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY | 07/01/2025 to 07/31/2025 | 11-05-2025 | We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this time. |
| The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level. | | | |
| STATE CHLORINE MONITORING DAILY | 08/01/2025 to 08/31/2025 | 11-05-2025 | We failed to monitor and record the daily minimum entry point chlorine residuals and report them to DEQ. Because of this, we cannot be sure of the water quality at this time. |
| The violation was returned to compliance once the system submitted one full months of data by 10th of the following month, and for said month, the system did not have any days with a chlorine residual below the mandatory level. | | | |

Complete and submit the Certification Form to DEQ by September 30. It is recommended that you email the CCR and Certification Form to DEQ at the same time to ensure that all actions are completed on time. A fillable certification form can be downloaded at https://deq.mt.gov/files/Water/Forms/CCR_Certification_Form_2026.docx