Town of Hot Springs

Montana Public Water System ID #0000251

2025 Water Quality Report

In compliance with the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act and in effort to keep you informed about the quality of drinking water and services we provide to you each day, we are pleased to provide our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided from January 1 to December 31, 2025. It includes details regarding the source of your drinking water, what your water contains, and how it compares to EPA and the State of Montana standards.

Our drinking water is provided via 3 groundwater wells that are 383, 241, and 380 feet deep. At the end of 2025, there are 434 water service connections, with 6 new connections for the year.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report, or concerning your drinking water quality or utilities, please contact the water system operator:

Michael Gray
(406) 741-2353

Michael is our certified water system operator with 6 years of experience. He attends periodic training to receive continuing education credits to maintain his operator licenses.

Did you know?? The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the grounds, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive elements. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in water may include:

1. Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can naturally occur or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4. Volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial process, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.
5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount 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. We routinely monitor constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws.

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 **Hot Springs Municipal Water**

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.

Hot Springs Municipal Water utilizes the listed water sources below:

Water Source Name	Water Source Type
WELL 1 GWIC 6154	Well
WELL 2 GWIC 6155	Well
WELL 4 GWIC 315718	Well

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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 contaminants in drinking water.

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The State of Montana DEQ requires us to monitor 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.

Our sampling frequency complies with EPA and state drinking water regulations. The following tests were performed to identify possible contaminants in our system during the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

- 12 Coliform bacteria tests (sampled once per month) – all were found coliform free.
- One Nitrate plus Nitrate test on each of our wells – none was detected.
- Lead and Copper – water is sampled from all three wells, and 10 randomly selected points (consumer homes) within the system. No lead or copper was detected in any of our wells. Of the ten sites within the system, zero lead was detected, and three homes had copper detected at 0.02, 0.02, and 0.04 mg/L.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality requires that we test for asbestos in our drinking water. As our distribution system contains no asbestos cement pipe, we have applied for and been granted a monitoring waiver for asbestos. This waiver allows our system to not test for this contaminant. This waiver covers the period from 2020 to 2028.

Due to the purity of our water, we have applied for and been issued a monitoring waiver for 10 inorganic contaminants: antimony, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, mercury, nickel, selenium, and thallium. This waiver allows our system to sample Well #1 and Well #2 only once every nine years for these contaminants. Past sampling has shown that these contaminants are either not present in our water or occur in such small amounts that the likelihood of contamination is low. The waiver covers the period from 2020 to 2028.

You can view the Public Water Supply Monitor Schedule at the following website:

- https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw

You can view the Public Water Supply Sample Results at the following website:

- https://sdwisdww.mt.gov/DWW/

To find your system, Hot Springs Municipal Water, search for Water System Number MT0000251.

The following table lists contaminants detected during recent testing. Some of the data in this table may be more than one year old, since certain contaminants are monitored less than once per year.

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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	0.02	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

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	2023	0.02	.01 - .02	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	1.12	.53 - 1.12	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

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	2023	0.70	ND - .7	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations

Violation for Consumer Confidence Rule

The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.

Violation Type	Violation Period	Resolution Date	Violation Explanation
CCR REPORT	07/01/2025 to 07/17/2025	07-17-2025	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

This violation was returned to compliance when the CCR was distributed to consumers and sent to the State of Montana DEQ.