

# **BROWNING WATER**

EPA Public Water Supply ID number 83090091

## *2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT*

In an effort to keep you informed about the quality of water and services we provide to you each day, we're pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided you last year and includes details regarding the source of your water, what it contains and how it compares to EPA standards.

Our drinking water comes from Two Medicine Water. Their water comes from Two Medicine Lake. In order to maintain its purity, Two Medicine filters the water then treats it with a small amount of chlorine. We have 1,659 service connections. The EPA has conducted a sanitary survey inspection of Two Medicine Water. They determined one of the Browning tanks needed repairs. We completed those repairs in 2022.

Violations: We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Josh Bechel at (406) 338-4858. Gerald Bechel is our certified operator with 30 years of experience. He attends periodic training sessions to meet continuing education requirements. The most recent training he received was in 2023.

**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 ground, 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 include:

- 1) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may 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 processes, petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- 5) 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, 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 take all of our water samples to Montana Environmental Laboratory in Kalispell (406-755-2131). They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water.

Two Medicine Water performed the following tests to identify possible contaminants in our source water during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022:

- One nitrate plus nitrite test – result was within EPA standards.
- One set of tests to determine the possible presence of 14 inorganic contaminants – results were within EPA standards.
- Tests to determine the possible presence of 61 organic contaminants – results were within EPA standards.

We performed the following tests to identify possible contaminants in our distribution system during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022:

- 60 Coliform bacteria tests – all were coliform free.
- Eight sets of tests to determine the possible presence of 10 disinfection byproducts – results were within EPA standards.
- 20 tests on the water from our customers’ homes to determine the possible presence of lead and copper leaching out of the faucets and fixtures – results were within EPA guidelines.

The following tables list the contaminants which have been detected in our water. Some of the data in these tables may be more than one year old, since certain chemical contaminants are monitored less than once per year.

### Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASUREMENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters (Adjusted)	N	9-07-22	1.1	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	N	12-04-23	0.13	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	N	9-21-21	0.14	ppm	0	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, naturally occurring
Fluoride	N	12-04-23	0.03	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	N	9-21-21	90th % is 3	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of Household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite	N	12-04-23	0.01	ppm	10	10	Naturally occurring at this level
Radium 228	N	09-07-22	1	pCi/L	0	5	Natural deposits
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA's)	N	8-21-23 Yr Avg	14 - 31	ppb	0	60	By product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	2-20-24 Yr Avg	13 - 52	ppb	0	80	By product of drinking water chlorination

**DEFINITIONS:**

**MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level** - The “Maximum Allowed” is 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.

**MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** - The “Goal” is 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.

**PPM - Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**PPB - Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**AL - Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**pCi/L - Pico Curies per Liter** - a very small unit of measurement of radioactivity.

**What does this table tell us?**

As you can see, our system had no MCL violations. MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects of exceeding the MCL, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having any adverse health effects. Although we have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components of the service lines and home plumbing systems. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in private home plumbing systems. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested by a certified laboratory like the one we send our samples to (Montana Environmental Laboratory, 406-755-2131). When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap until the water temperature has stabilized (usually for 30 seconds to 2 minutes) before you use the water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791, or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Our water system is committed to providing our customers with safe, pure water and we are pleased that our water meets or exceeds all established federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

Prepared by Two Medicine Water