TOWN OF BROWNING WATER

EPA Public Water Supply ID number 83090091

2025 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 a consecutive connection with Two Medicine Water, 083090090. Our water is first filtered by Two Medicine Water and then treated with a small amount of chlorine in order to maintain its purity.

We had no violations last year.

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 2025.

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 send our samples to Energy Laboratories here in Montana. They are a private laboratory that is certified by the State of Montana and the EPA to analyze drinking water. The following tests were performed to identify possible contaminants in our system during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025.

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 per the requirements.

Regulated Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	SAMPLE DATE	RANGE OF LEVEL DETECTED	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASURE-MENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper	N	2024	.01-0.19	90th Percentile: 0.09	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, naturally occurring
Lead	N	2024	0-9	90th Percentile: 2	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chorine	N	2025	1 – 1.2	1.2	ppm	NA	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	N	2025	13 - 41	28	ppb	0	60	By product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	2025	9.3 - 36	27	ppb	0	80	By product of drinking water chlorination

DEFINITIONS:

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running 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 a 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 a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for 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.

NA: not applicable.

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

What do these tables tell us?
As you can see our system had one MCL violations. MCLs 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, the EPA has determined that 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.

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.

We have monitored for lead and copper, and all our samples have been in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. 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. Two Medicine WS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Starr School System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you

have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Josh Bechel at (406) 338-4858. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The lead service line inventory was completed in the fall of 2024. We are working to identify our unknown lines. This project will be ongoing for a few years.

As part of an on-going evaluation program, the EPA has required us to monitor for some contaminants in drinking water that are not currently regulated.

Under the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5), EPA is gathering information on the occurrence of 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water. UCMR5 is intended to improve understanding about the presence and quantity of these substances in public drinking water systems, and EPA often does not have full knowledge of the health effects for these unregulated contaminants. The UCMR5 data collected on PFAS and lithium from drinking water systems will help the EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The process of developing regulatory standards is careful, deliberative, and data based. Monitoring for contaminants that are not regulated also helps federal, state, and other researchers prioritize studies for health effects information, identify data gaps, and determine the need for future studies to improve our understanding of the possible health risks associated with these contaminants in public drinking water. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science. For more information about UCMR5, visit https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.

Unregulated Contaminants – PFAS – Result was a Non-Detect of the contaminant, meaning none was found in the drinking water.

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.