

Montana Sweetgrass HOA 2020 CCR

(PWSID#MT0005002)

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Montana Sweetgrass's water system consists of 4 pressure tanks and two wells. Well #1 - West (GWIC 243856) was drilled in February of 2008, is 400 feet deep. It is of 8 5/8" steel, screened between 340 feet and 400 feet. The last monitored static water level was 39 feet below the ground. Well #1 yields about 532 gallons per minute. Well #2 – East (GWIC 243857) was drilled in May of 2008 is 400 feet deep. It is 8 5/8" steel, is slotted between 280 feet and 300 feet and screened between 340 feet and 400 feet. The last monitored static water level was 40 feet below the ground; yields about 393 gpm. The homeowners are served by a 4" water main. There are 39 lots within Montana Sweetgrass and 14 of those lots have homes.

Source water assessment and its availability

We want you to be informed about your water system. If you want to learn more, please watch for announcements by letter or postings at the mailbox site. If you would like more information about your consumer confidence report or your water system you can contact Safewater Testing at 406-253-5301 - Tina Malkuch, for water sampling information.

Of the samples that have been taken up to May 2020 your drinking water test safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about water sample results or concerns about your water, please contact Tina Malkuch 406 253-5301. Tina is the operator with 36 years of experience and is the owner of Safewater Testing simplified (STS). She attends all state required training sessions to meet continuing education credits as needed. The most recent courses attended were done online with the Montana Rural Water Systems. Jeri Miller, also a certified operator, is a contract employee that has worked at STS for 18 years. Her roll at STS not only includes office work, but to assist in testing as a back-up operator.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for

How can I get involved?

We want you to be informed about your water system. If you want to learn more, please attend your annual meeting, which is announced by letter in your water bill each year. Announcements are sent one month in advance of the annual meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in April with time and location.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

Additional Information for Lead

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. MONTANA SWEETGRASS HOA 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sampl Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	NA	NA	Not Sampled	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.01	NA	Not Sampled	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	Not Sampled	2020	No	Human and animal fecal waste

Violations								
1. Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Violation Type: Failure to test for Monthly Microbiological test. Violation Began 6/1/2020 Violation End 6/30/2020								
2. Combined Radium226/228 & Grass Alpha excluding radon and uranium Violation Type: Failure to test for combined radium. Violation Began 4/1/2020 Violation End 6/10/2020								
Failed to test drinking water for the Microbiological contaminate during period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of your water during this period. A sample was taken and submitted. A lab typo was made by omitting a hyphen causing the sample result not to be log in with the state in the 10 day required time limit.								
Sulfate	0.1	500	9.0	9.0	9.0	2020	No	Geological: steel and metal industries, fungicide manufacturing
Manganese**	.001	.05	.322 mg/L	-	-	2020	No	State MT Water Quality Parameter Sample
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.17	.17	.17	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.52	0.52	0.52	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants		MCLG	AL	90th Percentil	Sample Date	# Exceedi	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.0	2020	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.07	2020	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Radium -2020 226 228	0	5	1.9-2 pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha (excluding radon and Uranium – 2020	0	15	0-5.2 pCi/L		
Uranium - 2020	0	30	1.4 – 4 mg/L		

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducted a source water assessment of our system. This report provides additional information on the potential vulnerability of our wells to contamination. This report is available for review online at <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/dst/#/app/swp>. The report can be summarized in the following table:

Significant Potential Contaminant Sources

Source	Contaminant	Hazard	Hazard Rating	Barriers	Susceptibility	Management
<i>Inventory Region</i>						
Septic Systems	Pathogens, nitrate (NO ₃)	Discharge of pathogens; failure leading to discharge of untreated septage.	Moderate	Depth to intake, confining layers	Low	Properly maintain septic tanks and pump at scheduled intervals. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts. Promote advanced septic systems, education.
<i>Other Potential Contaminant Sources, not rated significant</i>						
USTs (?)	VOCs	Leaching of VOCs to groundwater	Low	Depth to intake, confining layers	Very Low	Maintain water quality sampling according schedule. Participate as a stakeholder in debates over water quality and local water quality districts.

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 state and federal standards. Thank you for reviewing this report.

For more information please contact:

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