

Missoula County RSID 901 Lolo Water District 2012 Drinking Water Quality Report

This report summarizes the system's compliance with state and federal drinking water rules and regulations. The report will not be mailed to individual homes/consumers. Contact the office at (406) 273-2733 or sid901@montana.com if you have any questions or would like a copy of this report.

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report will not be mailed to individual homes/consumers.

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?

Our water source is groundwater from three wells. Two of the wells are located on Glacier Drive and draw from the Bitterroot Aquifer; the third well is located along Highway 12 and draws from the Lolo Creek Aquifer.

Source water assessment and its availability

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

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 storm water 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 contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

We at Lolo Water are on duty around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources. Please call our office at 406-273-2733 if you have any questions.

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. Missoula County RSID901 - Lolo Water District 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

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The EPA or the State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. For contaminants that are not monitored yearly, we have reviewed our records back five years. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG or MRDLG</u> | <u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u> | <u>Your Water</u> | <u>Range Low - High</u> | <u>Sample Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.14 | 0.11 - 0.14 | Dec-10 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.87 | 0.48 0.87 | Dec-12 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 pCi/L | 3 | 1.4 - 3 | 2002 / 2010 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Combined Uranium | 0 | 30 ug/L | 0.004 | 0.004 - 0.004 | 2010 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Secondary Standards | | | | | | | |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 500 | NS | 13.5 | 11.3 13.5 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Chloride | 250 | NS | 6.4 | 4.2 6.4 | Dec-12 | No | |
| <u>Contaminants</u> | <u>MCLG</u> | <u>AL</u> | <u>Highest Level Detected</u> | <u>Sample Date</u> | <u># Samples Exceeding AL</u> | <u>Exceeds AL</u> | <u>Typical Source</u> |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.16 | Aug-10 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 0 | 0.015 | 0.003 | Aug-10 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Unregulated Additional Parameters | | | | | | | |
| | <u>MDL</u> | <u>MCL</u> | <u>Your Water</u> | <u>Range Low - High</u> | <u>Sample Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | |
| Alkalinity | 1 | NS | 194 | 177 194 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Calcium | 1 | NS | 47 | 42 43 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Conductivity umhos/cm | 0.1 | NS | 395 | 365 395 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Hardness | 2 | NS | 214 | 188 214 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Iron | 0.03 | 0.3 | 0.04 | ND 0.04 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Magnesium | 1 | 500 | 23 | 20 23 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Potassium | 1 | 500 | 3 | 3 3 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Sodium | 0.1 | 20 | 5.1 | 4.5 5.1 | Dec-12 | No | |
| pH (Physical Parameter) | 0.1 | 6.5 - 8.5 | 7.98 | 7.83 7.98 | Dec-12 | No | |
| Unit Descriptions | | | | | | | |
| <u>Term</u> | <u>Definition</u> | | | | | | |
| ppm | parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) | | | | | | |
| ppb | parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) | | | | | | |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) | | | | | | |
| positive samples/month | number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive | | | | | | |
| NA | NA: Not applicable | | | | | | |
| ND | ND: Not detected | | | | | | |
| NS | NS: No Standard | | | | | | |
| Important Drinking Water Definitions | | | | | | | |
| <u>Term</u> | <u>Definition</u> | | | | | | |
| 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 | 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 | Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. | | | | | | |
| 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 | State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | |
| Violations: | | | | | | | |
| Our system did not receive any violations during 2012. | | | | | | | |