

# Valley Grove Subdivision 2009 Consumer Confidence Report

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

## **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). No special precautions are necessary.

## **Where does my water come from?**

Our water comes from a total of 4 underground wells, and is referred to as "ground water." These wells are over 125 feet deep. Well number one is at the main tank area, wells two and four are visible from the Mountain Lion play park, and well three is near the intersection of Lewis & Clark and Explorer. Please report any suspicious activity near our wells to the Water Operator or the County Sherriff immediately. Tampering with wells and water distribution systems is a felony.

## **Sanitary Surveys**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality conducts periodic "Sanitary Surveys" of water systems. We recently completed such a survey. We did not have any significant deficiencies. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact the water operator.

## **Why would there ever be 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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.

### **Getting Involved**

If you are interested in more information, we encourage you to contact the water operator directly, or attend a monthly board meeting.

### **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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### 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. Valley Grove Subdivision 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 during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. 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 change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>							
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1	ND	1	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; agricultural runoff
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.11	0.71	2.11	2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)		MPL	0.26(MPL)	NA		2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - source water (ppm)		MPL	0.002(MPL)	NA		2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2009	No	Naturally present in the environment

## Undetected Contaminants

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

	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>			
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<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>or</u> <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	400	400	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	0	6	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

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)
ppt	ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
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

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