



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Big Mountain Water Co. Has Elevated Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Big Mountain Water Co. routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. In coordination with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), we recently collected samples from all six wells that supply our system's water.

In lab tests, samples from two of those wells showed detectable levels of two federally monitored PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. Three samples showed levels that, while detectable, were below the EPA-established maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of 4 ng/L. One sample showed a concentration of PFOA above the 4 ng/L MCL.

	PFOS (MCL=4 ng/L)	PFOA (MCL=4 ng/L)
Well #2	3.3 ng/L	2.4 ng/L
Well #3	2.3 ng/L	10 ng/L

No PFAS were detected in the other four wells that supply our system's water. Accordingly, the measurements above do not reflect PFAS levels systemwide. All samples were collected on April 27, 2026.

While PFAS MCL exceedances are not enforceable during the initial monitoring period (April 2024-April 2027) under EPA's national PFAS drinking water regulation, exceedances will be enforceable starting in June 2029.

Due to these results, DEQ has recommended systems post public notice to inform customers of PFAS in their drinking water that are at or above MCLs.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know about your drinking water.

What should I do?

- Do not boil the water. Boiling the water concentrates PFAS as it remains behind when the water evaporates.

- Infants, pregnant women, elderly people and people with liver disease are at increased risk and should use a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods.
- Parents, guardians and caregivers should use a different source of water for preparing infant formula.
- Using water for bathing, brushing teeth and washing dishes is generally considered low risk for exposure. Studies show that PFAS absorption through the skin is minimal, and inhalation during activities like showering is unlikely to cause significant exposure.
- If you are concerned about the water, consider using bottled water or other PFAS-free water sources.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult a health care provider.

What is being done?

Big Mountain Water Co. is posting public notices to make customers and other users aware of these test results. We also are resampling and retesting water from the two affected wells.

Because PFAS were used for decades in a wide range of products, there is no obvious single source of this contamination. We are receiving technical assistance from DEQ and working to identify a viable remediation plan. At this time, we do not believe we can meet summertime demand if either affected well is shut off.

We will take action to reduce PFAS levels in accordance with federal drinking water standards.

Where can I find more information?

- DEQ: <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-rules>
- EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

If you are a Big Mountain Water Co. customer, please contact Jason Hanchett at 406-862-1991 or jasonh@skiwhitefish.com with any questions.

If you are a member of the news media, please contact Chad Sokol at 406-862-1948 or chads@skiwhitefish.com.

This notice is being sent to you by Big Mountain Water Co.

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