

# 2021 REPORT

## CITY & COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD

### 2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



The City and County of Broomfield is again pleased to provide you with our Annual Water Quality Report, summarizing water quality data collected from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requires all public water systems to inform consumers about their water sources, water treatment processes, and levels of regulated contaminants in drinking water distributed to consumers during the past calendar year. Much more information about Broomfield's drinking water may be obtained by visiting the Environmental Services page of Broomfield's web site ([www.broomfield.org](http://www.broomfield.org)) or by calling Laura Hubbard at 303-464-5606. Broomfield's water supply, treatment, and delivery professionals are committed to providing you with drinking water that is safe, pleasing and dependable.

#### You're Invited ...

We welcome your input on any water quality or service issue. Broomfield City Council provides opportunities for public input and regularly meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm at the City and County Building, One DesCombes Drive. Meetings may be watched live on Channel 8. Notice of upcoming agendas is published on our website at [www.broomfield.org](http://www.broomfield.org), and is posted at the City and County Building.

#### En Español

Este informe contiene información muy importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

## WATER AND YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH

### Drinking Water and Health

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

### Special Health Concerns

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 microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

### Lead in Drinking Water and Its Effects on Children

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. The City and County of Broomfield 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>.

Public Water Supply ID# C00107155

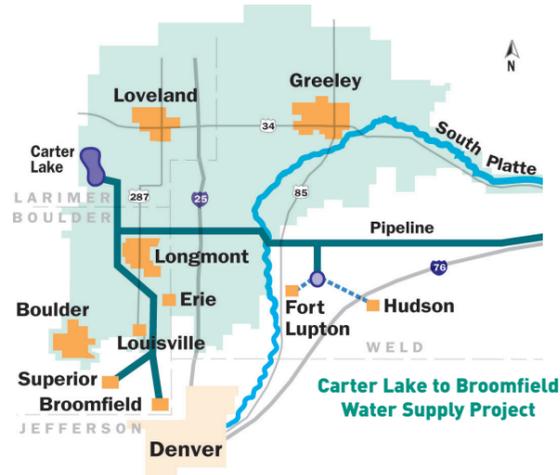


## BROOMFIELD'S WATER SOURCES

Broomfield is fortunate to have two sources of high-quality drinking water – water treated at our Water Treatment Plant, and treated water purchased from Denver Water. The two sources are allowed to mix in the distribution system. All of Broomfield's drinking water, whether supplied by Broomfield or Denver Water, comes from surface water sources such as rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

Denver Water may deliver treated water to its municipal customers from any of its three treatment facilities. Water supplying these facilities comes from Denver Water's extensive Moffat and South Platte River collection systems.

The water supply for Broomfield's treatment facility originates in the Colorado and Fraser Rivers west of the Continental Divide, and is delivered through the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's Colorado-Big Thompson (CBT) Project. On the eastern slope, Broomfield's water is stored in Carter Lake near Berthoud. From there, it is transported to Broomfield's Water Treatment Plant via a 33-mile pipeline, and stored in Matthew D. Glasser Reservoir, a small storage reservoir adjacent to the treatment facility.



### Drinking Water Treatment Process

In 2020, Broomfield's Water Treatment Plant was updated and expanded to a capacity of 26 million gallons of water per day. Chemicals specially formulated for drinking water treatment are added to the raw water to remove particles, microorganisms and other contaminants. Water is then filtered to remove any remaining particles, and disinfected with chloramines to inactivate bacteria and viruses and prevent harmful organisms from growing in the distribution system. Fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay, and sodium carbonate is added for corrosion control. Certified Water Treatment Operators monitor the treatment process continuously to ensure consistent quality and safety.

### Source Water Protection

The best place to prevent or minimize contaminants is at the source! The State of Colorado has developed a Source Water Assessment & Protection (SWAP) program to provide information and encourage community-based source water protection and preventive management strategies to keep our water resources safe from future contamination. You may obtain a copy of the report by visiting [www.colorado.gov](http://www.colorado.gov) and searching on 'source water assessment,' or by contacting Laura Hubbard at 303-464-5606.

The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that **could** occur. It does not mean that the contamination **has or will** occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your home. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan.

Potential sources of contamination in our watershed are:

- EPA areas of concern such as solid waste sites
- permitted wastewater discharge sites, septic systems
- above ground, underground or leaking storage tank sites
- existing or abandoned mine sites
- quarries, strip mines and gravel pits
- oil and gas wells, roads
- other commercial/industrial facilities
- commercial, industrial and transportation activities
- residential or urban
- recreational grassy areas
- agricultural and forested areas.

### Water Conservation

In addition to protecting our source water, we can all increase our efforts to use water more wisely. To preserve this limited resource, **Broomfield is asking its customers to closely follow the watering guidelines developed in cooperation with other Front Range communities. The guidelines are available on the Water Resources web page at [www.Broomfield.org](http://www.Broomfield.org).** These guidelines offer a common sense approach to using water as efficiently as possible. Efforts to use water efficiently now may postpone or eliminate the need for watering restrictions if the water storage reservoir levels decline. Broomfield is offering free irrigation audits, xeric garden and lawn replacement discounts, and rebates for toilets, rain barrels, irrigation controllers and irrigation heads to help residents and businesses achieve long-term water efficiency. Please visit [www.Broomfield.org/SaveWater](http://www.Broomfield.org/SaveWater) to learn more about all of the ways to save money and water in Broomfield.



### Drinking Water Contaminant Sources

Drinking water contaminants may occur naturally, or result from human activity. Contaminants may be present in the source water, introduced during the treatment process, or develop after the water leaves the treatment facility.

Source Water. 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 land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and other contaminants resulting from the presence of plants, animals or from human activity. For example:

- **Microbial contaminants** such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture, livestock operations, household pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** such as salts and metals 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** may come from sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, can be byproducts of industrial processes such as petroleum production, or come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally-occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Treatment Process.** Some regulated substances are introduced during the water treatment process, or as a result of treatment. Examples include fluoride, disinfectants, and disinfection by-products.

**After Treatment.** After treatment, the interaction of treated water with water mains and household plumbing may contribute other substances, such as lead and copper, to consumers' tap water.



# WATER QUALITY DATA

During 2021, Broomfield's Water Treatment staff and Certified Drinking Water Laboratory performed more than 25,000 tests for about 100 different regulated contaminants. The table below lists all the detected regulated drinking water contaminants that Broomfield water consumers could have received during the 2021 calendar year. Contaminants not reported in the table were not detected.

## Terms, Abbreviations, and Symbols Used in This Report:

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). In dollars, 1 ppm = 1 cent in \$10,000

**ppb** – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L). In dollars, 1 ppb = 1 cent in \$10,000,000

**pCi/L** – picocuries per liter, a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 Contaminant Level (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.

**Violation** – A failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

**Range of Individual Samples** – The lowest sample result to the highest sample result.

**Average of Individual Samples** – The sum of all sample results divided by the number of sample results.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – A non-enforceable, recommended limit for a substance that affects the taste, odor, color or other aesthetic qualities of drinking water, rather than posing a health risk.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (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 contamination.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Turbidity** – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is measured in "Nephelometric Turbidity Units," or NTU.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)** – An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months at a specific sampling location.

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

**N/A** – Not Applicable **ND** – Not Detected

**BR** – Below the Reportable level

**Minimum Reporting Level (MRL)** – The lowest concentration that can be reliably reported using a particular analytical method.

## Secondary and Unregulated Water Quality Characteristics

Constituent	Units	Recommended Limit (if any)	Range in Distribution System (Minimum – Maximum)
Secondary Constituents (Recommended Limit is the SMCL)			
Aluminum	ppm	0.05 – 0.2	0.019 - 0.036
Chloride	ppm	250	4.3 - 21
Copper	ppm	1	0.003 - 0.042
Fluoride	ppm	2	0.53 - 0.85
Iron	ppb	300	ND - 25
Manganese	ppb	50	0.70 - 9.3
pH	Std. Units	NA	7.8 - 9.7
Silver	ppm	0.1	ND - 0.005
Sulfate	ppm	250	16 - 68
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	500	64 - 180
Zinc	ppm	5	0.001 - 0.007
Unregulated Constituents			
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	N/A	33 - 80
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	< 50 = "soft" >150 = "hard"	25 - 110
	grains per gallon	< 3 = "soft" > 8.8 = "hard"	1.5 - 6.4
Calcium	ppm	N/A	7.0 - 34
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	1.3 - 5.8
Nickel	ppm	0.1	0.001 - 0.002
Potassium	ppm	N/A	0.69 - 2.1
Sodium	ppm	N/A	13 - 20

## What's the bottom line?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met or surpassed all EPA and Colorado health standards for drinking water. We're pleased to report that **our system has never violated a Maximum Contaminant Level**. Although some regulated contaminants were detected, the levels were below the health-protection limits established by EPA.

## Other water quality questions?

Our 2021 monitoring results for other water quality characteristics that may be of interest are reported in the table below. These may affect water's taste, smell or appearance. Water hardness may affect how much detergent we use. For more information about water quality concerns or this report, please call Laura Hubbard at **303-464-5606**, or the Water Treatment Plant at **303-464-5600**.



## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE: What's in Broomfield's water?

Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System										
Contaminant	Year	CCR Units	EPA Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Average	Range of Individual Samples	MCL Violation?	Sample Date/Frequency	Typical Sources	
Antimony	2021	ppb	0	6	1.21	1.21	No	Annual	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder	
Arsenic	2021	ppb	0	10	0.15	0.15	No	Annual	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production waste	
Barium <sup>1</sup>	2021	ppm	2	2	0.034	0.018 - 0.043	No	Monthly	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries	
Chromium <sup>1</sup>	2021	ppb	100	100	0.03	BR - 1	No	Monthly	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel and pulp mills	
Combined Radium <sup>2</sup>	2020	ppm	0	5	1.3	1.3	No	Every 6 years	Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride	2021	ppm	4	4 (SMCL=2)	0.68	0.68	No	Annual	Water additive to promote strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Gross Alpha <sup>2</sup>	2020	ppm	0	15	0.3	0.3	No	Every 6 years	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nickel (monitoring required, but no MCL)	2021	ppb	N/A	N/A	0.59	0.59	No	Annually	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate, as Nitrogen <sup>1</sup>	2021	ppm	10	10	0.07	BR - 0.20	No	Monthly	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium (monitoring required, but no MCL) <sup>1</sup>	2021	ppm	N/A	N/A	20	9.1 - 29	N/A	Monthly	Naturally present in the environment	
Contaminant	Year	TT Requirement			Results		TT Violation?	Sample Date/Frequency	Typical Sources	
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	2021	Maximum of 1 NTU for any single measurement			Highest single measurement: 0.23 NTU		No	December, every 4 hours	Soil runoff	
	2021	Each month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU			Lowest % of samples less than 0.3 NTU: 100%		No	Every 4 hours		
Sampled at the Treatment Facility										
Disinfection Byproduct Precursor	Year	Unit of Measure	TT Minimum Ratio	Average	Range of Individual Ratio Samples	TT Violation?	Number of Samples	Typical Sources		
Total Organic Carbon Ratio	2021	Ratio	1	1.20	0.64 - 1.45	No	13	Naturally present in the environment		
Sampled in the Distribution System										
Disinfection Byproduct	Year	CCR Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest Compliance Value (LRAA) <sup>4</sup>	Range of Compliance Values (LRAA)	Range of Individual Samples	MCL Violation?	Number of Samples	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	ppb	0	80	26.0	19.9 - 26.0	15.2 - 35.9	No	32	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection of drinking water
Haloacetic acids (HAA5)	2021	ppb	0	60	17.2	12.0 - 17.2	7.5 - 25.3	No	32	
Disinfectant	Year	CCR Units	EPA Goal (MRDLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MRDL)	Average	Range of Individual Samples	MRDL Violation?	Sample Date/Frequency	Typical Sources	
Total Chlorine (chloramine)	2021	ppm	4	4.0	2.2	0.28 - 3.2	No	110 per month	Water additive used to control microbes	
Disinfectant	Year	TT Requirement	Results			Number of Samples Below Level	TT Violation?	Sample Date/Frequency	Typical Sources	
Total Chlorine (chloramine)	2021	At least 95% of samples each month must be at least 0.2 ppm.	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting TT Requirement: 100%			0	No	110 samples per month	Water additive used to control microbes	
Sampled at the Consumer's Tap										
Residential lead and copper monitoring is now required every 6 months due to a recent treatment change.	2021	CCR Units	Action Level (AL) <sup>5</sup>	90th Percentile	Sample Sites Above AL	Number of Samples	MCL Violation?	Sample Date/Frequency	Typical Sources	
Lead	1st half	ppb	15	2.7	Zero	112	No	May - June/ Every 6 months	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper	1st half	ppm	1.3	0.03	Zero	112	No			
Lead	2nd half	ppb	15	3.8	2	107	No	July - Oct./ Every 6 months		
Copper	2nd half	ppm	1.3	0.03	Zero	107	No			

<sup>1</sup> Denver Water data. We report the maximum detected concentration that Broomfield water customers could have received, from either Broomfield or Denver Water sources.

<sup>2</sup> These results are from the most recent sampling; we monitor again for these contaminants in 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

<sup>4</sup> TTHM and HAA5 are regulated as a locational running annual average (LRAA), not a single value.

<sup>5</sup> The Action Levels for lead and copper apply to the 90th percentile of all samples collected; 90% of the sample results must be below the Action Level.