

Galena City Water Quality Report 2025

Public Water System ID# AK2360272

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?

Two ground water wells at 336 feet and 307 feet deep provide our water. It is treated and disinfected through hypochlorination. Particulates are removed by flocculation, iron is removed by manganese greensand and permanganate filtration.

Source water assessment and its availability

Both groundwater wellheads received a susceptibility rating of Very High and the aquifer received a susceptibility rating of Very High. Combining these two ratings produce a Very High rating for the natural susceptibility of the well. For more information regarding the source water assessment or to receive a full copy of the report please contact ADEC at 907-269-7549. You can also find out more information about our drinking water system on the ADEC Drinking Water Watch webpage <https://dec.alaska.gov/DWW/>

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 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.

How can I get involved?

Contact the City office if you have questions about your water.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

1. We are required to report the level of chlorine found in the water in the distribution system when we perform our monthly total coliform sampling. We did not do this in June, November, or December 2025. Chlorine is a water additive used to control microbes. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes, nose, and/or stomach discomfort. However, untreated water may contain organisms, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites, that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and headaches. We returned to compliance for the June violation with the submission of the July 2025 TCR samples. We returned to compliance for the November and December violations with the submission of the February 2026 TCR samples. The health effects of this violation are unknown.

Significant Deficiencies

There are three significant deficiencies noted in the 2023 sanitary survey that remain outstanding.

1. The surveyor noted that the ladders were covered with ice, and they were not able to inspect the storages tanks, hatches, vents, roofs, and overflow outlets. The system operator or owner will need to provide photos to the department once it is safe to access the storage tanks. The system has until the corrective action date listed above to provide a written statement and photos to the department.

2. The wells could not be inspected to ensure the sanitary seals and well cases were in good condition. The system operator or owner will need to provide photos to the department once the snow melts and the inspection of the wells can be completed.
3. The surveyor could not verify that the water pump and lubricant used on the water haul truck is NSF compliant. The system will need to provide documentation and photos of the pump and the lubricant used to the department.

These deficiencies can be corrected during the 2026 sanitary survey.

Additional Information for Lead

The system inventory does not include lead service lines.

A Lead Service Line Inventory has been drafted by the State of Alaska, however the Public Water System has not verified the inventory and therefore the lead status of service lines is unknown at this time. The system needs to review the inventory completed by DEC ASAP and return the certification form. To learn more about our lead service line inventory, please contact us at the City Office at 907-363-2136.

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. GALENA WTP1 - CITY is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact GALENA WTP1 - CITY (Public Watersystem Id: AK2360272) by calling 907-656-1301 or emailing shuntington@ci.galena.ak.us. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	0.13	00	0.13	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	00	NA	0.04	0	January to June 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	00	NA	0.09	0	July to December 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	7	NA	7.1	0	January to June 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	4	NA	8.7	0	July to December 2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
									Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Undetected Contaminants

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

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
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
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

For more information please contact:

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