

PUBLIC NOTICE
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Barton Water System, VT0005189
Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently exceeded drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, customers have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results from the four quarters ending with the **Fourth Quarter 2024** show that our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM.

The standard for TTHM is 80 UG/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TTHM is **82 UG/L**.

What should I do?

The drinking water standard (MCL) is based on lifetime exposure to TTHM which may increase your risk of getting cancer. Continuing to drink the water is a personal decision that you must make for yourself by considering the health risk, cost, and convenience. You may choose to use bottled water or water from an alternate source.

You do not need to boil your water. You can continue to use the water for showering, bathing, washing your food and dishes, brushing your teeth, and other household uses.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. Drinking water containing TTHM at this concentration will not lead to any short-term effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pains.

Haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes are organic chemicals that form when chlorine disinfectant reacts with natural organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some total trihalomethanes have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

What happened? What is being done?

Due to recent historic rainfall amounts, organics content in our source water has increased dramatically. Sediment from floodwaters has decreased the settling capacity of our ponds.

The treatment process has been successfully maintaining primary water quality standards, however a plan to physically remove sediment buildup by dredging our source water ponds is being developed to meet current EPA requirements.

For more information, please contact Lucas A. DiMauro at 802-525-6549, watermanager@bartonvt.com, or 436 Willoughby Lake Road, Barton, VT 05822.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.