

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 violated 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 **First Quarter 2026** show that our system violated 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 was 95 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.

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?

TTHM has increased since November 2024. Initially this was due to the 2023 flooding and continued with 2024 flooding. We dredged the pond on Doyle Lane in 2025 and were advised that it may take up to a year to settle and see a reduction in TTHM levels. We have routinely flushed the system. We will be replacing the media in our filters while having them refurbished. We are scheduling a meeting with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division and Tailwater Engineering to discuss a schedule and plan under which we will achieve Disinfection Byproduct results that are reliably and consistently below the Maximum Contaminant Limit. This will be warned as either a special or regular Trustees Meeting. All are encouraged to attend.

The 01/15/26 Total Trihalomethanes test result was 83.8 ug/L. The 11/18/25 Total Trihalomethanes test result was 91.1 ug/L.

For more information, please contact Regina L. Lyon at 802-525-4747 or PO Box 519, 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.