The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, springs, and wells. Water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. It can be naturally occurring or be the result of human activities such as septic systems. The water systems we use can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial processes, and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and industrial uses.

Contaminants that may be present in these water sources include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that can come from septic treatment plants, 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 mining.
- Particulates and sediments that can come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential areas.
- Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are biodegradable waste products from industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and industrial processes, and water systems.

Viewed in their broadest context, these contaminants can be either primary or secondary contaminants. Primary contaminants include those associated with a water source, such as rainfall (total suspended solids), industrial discharges, and household activities. Secondary contaminants include those associated with water treatment systems or the drinking water distribution systems.
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Infants and young children are particularly at risk. If you have health conditions that may increase your sensitivity to contaminants in water (e.g., immunocompromise from a disease or procedure such as cancer treatment or organ transplant; immune deficiencies; severe, chronic lung disease; cardiovascular conditions; HIV infection); if you are taking medications that alter the body’s normal response to infection; if you are pregnant; or if you have a baby in your home, you may want to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water.

Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingesting of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can continue the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. For more information about contamination and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, call the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Your Public Water System is owned by Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority, a local government. The Authority, a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado, is organized pursuant to the Water Authority Act. The Authority is comprised of six Member Agencies (the Metropolitan Districts of Arrowhead, Beaver Creek, Berry Creek, Eagle-Vail, and Edwards along with the Town of Avon), each of which appoints one Director to the six member Board of Directors. Operation and maintenance of the water system is provided by Eagle River Water & Sanitation District through an Operations Agreement. Board meetings are scheduled for the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The Authority Information is available online at erwsd.org or by calling (970) 476-7480.

The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening/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 potential for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that currently qualified water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan.