

The city's source water comes from Lyman Creek in the Bridger Mountains, and from Sourdough and Hyalite Creeks in the Gallatin Mountains. In the Hyalite creek drainage the city has 5900 acre feet of water storage in the Middle Creek Reservoir (also known as Hyalite Reservoir), this comprises about half of the water from that source. [Click here to go to a link to the Middle Creek Dam Reservoir Data page.](#)

Water from the Sourdough and Hyalite drainages is treated at the Sourdough Water Treatment Plant. The current Sourdough Water Treatment Plant went on line in March of 2014 with a maximum capacity of 22 million gallons per day. The Sourdough Water Treatment Plant processes about 75% of the water requirement for the City.

At the Sourdough Plant water is first screened to remove sticks, pine needles, leaves, fish, and other coarse material. The water is then metered before it enters the treatment process. The first step in treatment is grit removal, a process where sand and similar material is removed. Next is the coagulation/flocculation process that creates large particles that can be removed by sedimentation. After sedimentation, the water is passed through strainers that remove particles larger than 300 microns (a human hair is about 60 microns). Next the water is filtered through membranes that remove particles larger than 0.1 microns (a cryptosporidium cyst is about 3.5 micron).

After filtration the water is disinfected with chlorine. The pH is then adjusted in an effort to inhibit corrosion of pipes inside building, to prevent the leaching of lead and copper ions into the water. Lastly, the water is fluoridated to aid in the prevention of tooth decay.

The water from the Lyman Creek source is groundwater. It is chlorinated and fluoridated, then introduced to the distribution system. Production from the Lyman spring varies through the year, peaking in early summer at 3.7 million gallons a day.

There are three finished water storage tanks providing, when full, eleven million gallons of storage.