



TOWN OF WINCHESTER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply # 3344000



Dear Customer,

The 2006 Drinking Water Report to Consumers is a report on the quality of drinking water supplied by the Winchester Water Department (WWD) in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. We are happy to be working with MWRA in this joint communication on the quality of drinking water arriving at your home. This annual report provides detailed information on the Winchester and MWRA's source water reservoirs and the quality of water determined through federal and state testing guidelines.

Water for the Town of Winchester comes from the MWRA Water System and town-owned reservoirs located in the Middlesex Fells Reservation off of South Border Road. A filtration plant located at the South Reservoir treats the Winchester water. The South Reservoir is protected through Sanitary Surveys, Water Quality Testing, Reservoir Patrolling and Watershed Management. Protection of MWRA's source reservoirs is discussed in the Report. The Winchester water system is made up of three pressure distribution networks; the Westside High System, the Eastside High System and the Middle Low System. The Westside High System receives water from the MWRA on a daily basis. This system serves streets located west of Cambridge Street. The Eastside High System receives its water from the Winchester Water Treatment Plant from October to April

and receives MWRA water from May to September. The Eastside High System serves the area east of Washington Street, east of Main Street to Symmes Corner and the streets east of Grove Street. The Middle Low System receives its water from the Winchester Water Treatment Plant on a daily basis and serves streets west of Washington Street, west of Main Street and west of Grove Street.

The Town of Winchester, through the efforts of the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting Members, has taken an aggressive approach in ensuring our drinking water meets the highest standards. The following are some system improvements over the last few years:

- Construction of a 2 million gallon-per-day (mgd) water treatment plant;
- Construction of a 1 mgd storage tank;
- Replacement and cleaning & lining of over 23 miles of water mains in the Winchester distribution system;
- The MWRA installed a 24-inch water line on Forest Street that serves as a back up to Winchester's water system; and
- Replacement of 110 lead goose necks by contract.

The Town of Winchester and the MWRA analyze water samples on a routine basis to ensure compliance with all state and federal regulatory requirements. Annual system-wide flushing and lead gooseneck replacement of water services were also performed. Listed below are several substances that were tested

in Winchester's sources of drinking water during 2006. The table also shows the results of each contaminant found in the water compared to the highest levels allowed by law (MCL). Not listed are the more than 200 other substances for which we tested that were not detected in our water during 2006. The Town received a 3 year waiver from lead and copper testing from the DEP due to 3 years of not exceeding 90% action level.

If you would like additional information on your drinking water, call Stephen Swymer at the Winchester Water Department at (781) 721-7100 or you can call MWRA or US EPA at the numbers in the Report.

**10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION:**

- Never dump anything into the stormdrain system.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Compost your yard waste
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle used motor oil.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down the area.
- Properly dispose of hazardous household wastes.

Samples	Units	MCL	Detected Level	Violations	How it gets in the water	MCLG
Turbidity	NTU	0.3	0.016	No	Soil runoff	0
Fluoride	ppm	4	1.2	No	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	4
Sodium	ppm	NS	22	No	Widely present in reservoirs	ns
TTHM	ppb	80	35	No	By product of disinfection	ns
Haloacetic Acid	ppb	60	8	No	By product of disinfection	ns
Nitrate	ppm	10	ND	No	Naturally present in water	10
Lead	ppm	0.015	Waiver (DEP)	No	Present in water system and household plumbing	0
Copper	ppm	1.3	Waiver (DEP)	No	Present in water system and household plumbing	0
Chlorine	ppm	4.0	0.6	No	Disinfection	4

**Key:** NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Unit PPM=Parts per million TTHM=Total Trihalomethanes MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest allowed level of a contaminant in drinking water.