

Your Community



TOWN OF NORWOOD

Public Water Supply
4220000

To the Norwood Community:

This annual report, compiled in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations, deals with the quality of the drinking water that we deliver to you, our residents, and other water users.

Norwood, like many other communities in the metropolitan area, obtains all of its water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which owns and operates a network of water reservoirs, treatment facilities and distribution pipes, ranging from the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs and storage facilities in western and central Massachusetts to the hundreds of miles of individual water mains that deliver water to our border. The Town, in turn, delivers this water to your home through a network of over 120 miles of locally-owned distribution pipes, maintained by our local Department of Public Works.

Both the MWRA and the Town have invested heavily in our water systems in recent years in order to maintain the high quality of our drinking water. In the last few years, for example, we have cleaned and lined several thousand feet of water main to eliminate rusty water problems in different neighborhoods. Last year's project focused on cleaning and lining 1,420 feet of 6-inch main on Concord Ave. We also installed 1,120 feet of new 12-inch water main on Willow St. from Pleasant Street to Lenox Street.

This coming construction season, we will again focus our efforts on continuing our water main cleaning and lining program. This year's project will:

- Clean and cement-line 3,850 feet of 6-inch water main on Elm Street, Cypress Street, Sycamore Street and a portion of Lincoln Street. Work will commence shortly after July 1st. This is part of the Town's continuing effort to clean cast-iron water mains and then install cement linings. This work improves both water pressure in the affected pipe and the aesthetics of the drinking water it provides.

Water Quality Results

The MWRA water that is supplied to Norwood is some of the highest quality water in the country. Both the MWRA and the Town constantly collect and analyze water samples in accordance with protocols set by state agencies and by the EPA to ensure its continued safety and potability.

The most frequently asked question that we receive about water quality concerns the potential presence of lead in tap water. The answer is simple: ***the water we supply to your home does not contain any lead.*** If any lead is present at the tap, it has been picked up through contact with brass fixtures (which contain lead in the alloy) or with lead elsewhere on the premises, such as lead solder used in plumbing work. Lead water services (the pipe running from the house foundation to the water main in the street) may also be a factor. However, lead has not been used for water services or for household plumbing since before World War II. Although the majority of homes dating from this earlier era either never used lead or have since had their water services replaced, there are still a small number of lead services in use. Over the last several years, the Public Works Department has located and replaced over 120 such residential services, even though almost none of the homes involved exhibited elevated lead levels. Lead solder, on the other hand, was not banned until 1986, so it is possible that some newer homes built before that date could have elevated levels of lead present in the "first flush" from a tap.

Norwood tests for lead in tap water in 15 local homes annually. The 90th percentile for Norwood was 12 ppb, which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. For more information about the potential presence of lead at the tap and steps that may be taken to reduce exposure, contact the Norwood Board of Health. In addition, the Board of Health conducts a voluntary lead testing program using a state-certified laboratory to analyze tap water samples collected by the consumer (there is a \$20 fee). Please contact Director of Public Health Sigalle Reiss in the Health Dept. at 781-762-1240 x174 for more information.

We hope that you find this report to be informative. If you have any questions, please contact Director Mark P. Ryan of the Department of Public Works at 781-762-1413.

John J. Carroll
General Manager

Mark P. Ryan
Director of Public Works and Town Engineer