

Your Community

Public Water Supply
3344000



Town of Winchester Department of Public Works

Dear Customer,

The 2012 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; and a million gallon storage tank
- 100% Replacement, cleaning & lining of over 23 miles of water mains in the Winchester distribution system;
- Reconstruction of the east dike at South Reservoir
- The MWRA installed a 24-inch water line on Forest Street that serves as a back up to Winchester's water system

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The DEP conducted a source water assessment survey in 2003 to assess the susceptibility of the Town's water supply. The full report is available online at www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapover.htm

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 gooseneck lead replacement of water services were also performed. Listed below are several substances that were tested in Winchester's sources of drinking water during 2012. 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 2012.

	Units	MCL (mg/l)	Detected Level	Violations	How It Gets In The Water
Turbidity	NTU	0.3	0.066	NO	Soil runoff
Fluoride	ppm	4	1.1	NO	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Sodium	ppm	NS	21	NO	Widely present in reservoirs
TTHM	ppb	80	33.7	NO	By product of disinfection
Haloacetic Acid	ppb	60	8.8	NO	By product of disinfection
Lead	ppm	0.015	97% passed	NO	Present in water system and household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	100% passed	NO	Present in water system and household plumbing
Chlorine	ppm	4.0	1.23	NO	Disinfection

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.

10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

- Never dump anything into the storm drain system
- Pick up after your pet
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- Limit the use of fertilizers
- 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 your yard debris rather than hosing down the area
- Properly dispose of hazardous household wastes

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