

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the City of Malden

Public Water Supply
3165000

Our water system violated several drinking water requirements during 2018 to 2022. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 2018-2022 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for lead and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

What happened?

Our records related to the Lead and Copper Rule for the years 2018 to 2022 were reviewed by EPA and MassDEP in the Spring of 2022. That review found that while we sampled each year as required, some of our records were insufficient or inadequate. Because our records of which homes still had lead service lines were not fully up to date, in some cases we monitored locations that did not meet the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule. Therefore while we collected the right number of samples, they were not all the appropriate "Tier 1" category and cannot be credited towards the requirements.

The table below shows how many samples we were required to sample, how many we took, and how many were of the required Tier 1 category. Collecting fewer than the required number of samples from Tier 1 (lead service line or lead solder) sampling locations is a monitoring violation. Once we were alerted to the violation, we updated our records, and collected the right number of samples from appropriate locations in October of 2022

	Required Sampling Frequency	Total Number of Samples Collected	Number of Samples Taken at Required Locations
Lead	2018	15	12 of 15 required
Lead	2019	15	11 of 15 required
Lead	2020	15	11 of 15 required
Lead	2021	15	10 of 15 required
Lead	Every 6 months – 2022	40	34 of 40 required

Our violations also included these two related recordkeeping violations:

1. Failure to accurately update the sampling plan submitted for MassDEP approval.
2. Failure to update and maintain the materials evaluation as part of the water system distribution system maps and associated databases.

Even though we did not sample at the required Tier 1 locations, Malden exceeded the lead action level during 2021, and the required educational materials were sent to all residents.

We also had a reporting violation because although we provided the correct 90th percentile results, we did not also include the number of samples over the action level in the annual water quality report in 2020 and 2021.

What Corrective Actions Have We Taken:

1. Malden's service line inventory is now being updated regularly. Malden is in the process of completing a complete updated inventory of every service line using the MassDEP Materials Inventory Spreadsheet that is due by October 2024. The information on service lines is provided on our web site at www.cityofmalden.org/222/Find-out-if-You-Have-Lead-Service-Lines
2. Any new sampling sites will be determined by verifying existing water cards, the GIS Lead map, and/or a visual inspection and photo documentation of the lead service before being adding to our sampling site plan to ensure they meet the regulatory requirements.
3. This year's annual water quality report includes all the information required on lead results in an easy to read table.

For more information, please contact the Malden Engineering Department at 781-397-7040, or yliip@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you via the on-line version of the Annual Water Quality Report