



Public Water Supply  
# 3291000

## Swampscott Board of Public Works

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The Annual Water Quality Report to Consumers is a report on the quality of the drinking water supplied by the Town of Swampscott in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). We are pleased to be working with the MWRA on this joint communication on the quality of the drinking water arriving at your home or business. This annual report provides detailed information on the MWRA's reservoirs, which are the sole source of water distributed to the Town of Swampscott, and the quality of water as determined through federal and state testing guidelines. Water quality test data, definitions of the terms used, and other important information are presented in clear and easy to read language.

In addition to steps taken by the MWRA to protect water quality, the Town of Swampscott has continued to make improvements to the water system. Improvements include a 2009 town wide leak detection survey. During the survey, a total of ten leaks were located which contributed to an estimated leakage of approximately 160,000 gallons per day. Corresponding with the subsequent repairs was the reduction of water that the Town of Swampscott purchased from the MWRA. The Town of Swampscott's unaccounted for water, for the 2009 calendar year, remained at ten percent. Unfortunately, due to the ever increasing costs associated with operating the Town's water system, water rates for FY'10 increased by 15%.

One hundred percent of the Town of Swampscott's water is supplied by the MWRA through the sixteen-inch water main on New Ocean Street. The Town tests the quality of our water by gathering bi-weekly test samples at nine different locations throughout the town. During the 2009 calendar year, test results consistently showed no indications of any health hazards. The Town is also responsible for conducting lead and copper test samples on a semi-annual basis. It is important to note that the water supplied by the MWRA does not contain any lead. However, Swampscott remains concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes twice a year. The 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 3.56 ppb, which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water.

As part of the Town's continuing efforts to upgrade its water distribution system, during the 2009 calendar year, the Town finished replacing the six-inch water mains on Galloupes Point Road and Williams Terrace. This project was accomplished using MWRA's Local Pipeline Assistance Program interest free loans, and was the ninth year in which the Town has taken advantage of the MWRA's financial assistance. Plans for 2010 tentatively consist of re-lining the remainder of the 10-inch main on Humphrey Street, as well as the 12-inch main on Salem Street.

The Town of Swampscott is committed to providing its residents with the best water possible. As our customers, we hope that you will find this report informative and useful. If you would like to obtain additional information on particular subjects, or have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works, at (781) 596-8860, or e-mail the Director at [gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us](mailto:gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us). You may also contact the MWRA directly using the phone numbers listed in this report.

Sincerely,

Gino A. Cresta, Jr.  
Director of Public Works

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