



Town of Winthrop
Department of Public Works
100 Kennedy Drive, Winthrop, MA 02152

Public Water Supply
3346000

Dear Water Customer:

The annual water quality report outlines the condition of our drinking water distributed by the Winthrop Department of Public Works (DPW) and supplied by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). We are happy to have a partnership with the MWRA in our mission to deliver to your home some of the best quality water in the country. This annual report provides detailed information on the MWRA's water reservoirs, treatment systems and sampling test results including federal and state guidelines. Water quality testing information is also presented with information on the relationship between various contaminants and health concerns.

It is the responsibility of the DPW to operate, maintain and manage the local water distribution system. This includes regular sampling and monitoring of the system and the water to preserve the quality and to provide adequate fire protection. One of testing protocols is for lead and copper. During the period between July and December of 2009, the Town experienced an exceedance of the 90th percentile for lead with a result of 16.8 parts per billion (ppb). Three of the seventeen sampling sites were above Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standard of 15 ppb. This exceedance causes the (DEP) to mandate replacement of some lead services. Lead is a concern to all water system operators and regulators because some studies have indicated that infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level (15ppb) could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning ability. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Sources of lead in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems.

In response to this last year's test results, the Winthrop DPW has taken the following steps to address lead and copper:

- Updated and identified the remaining lead service lines in Town;
- Continued our program to remove 7% of Town owned portion of the remaining lead services together with an opportunity for owners to replace the private portion of the service.

Property owners with lead services who wish to participate in the replacement program or want further details can call the DPW at 617-846-1341 or email dhickey@Town.Winthrop.ma.us.

Residents should be aware that the Town has experienced lead exceedances in the past; however the issue seems to return periodically. We are confident in the quality of the water and the capacity of the distribution system. We urge owners of older homes to inspect their plumbing and if possible to remove fittings with lead joints or lead solder. We also encourage you to review information contained in this report to take practical steps to reduce exposure to lead and other common contaminants. We truly hope you find this report useful and informative. If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Winthrop DPW, the MWRA or other contacts such as the DEP or EPA as listed herein.

Sincerely,

David J Hickey, PE
Public Works Director

Steven R. Calla
Public Works Operations Manager