



Public Water Supply
3155000

Town of Lexington DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER & SEWER

This Drinking Water Report is intended to provide information to Lexington residents about their water supply. Our Town works in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to deliver high quality drinking water to each customer for consumption, fire protection and other uses. Helping residents learn more about water quality and the effort that goes into maintaining the water system is part of this partnership. By providing this information, we also hope to encourage conservation and protection of this precious resource.

Our water comes from the Quabbin Reservoir in Western Massachusetts, through the Wachusett Reservoir and is transported in tunnels and pipes to four metered locations that supply the Town. There are 158 miles of water distribution pipes in Lexington that on average deliver approximately 5 million gallons per day (MGD) to our customers. Demand for water fluctuates seasonally, with higher volumes of water being used during the summer months. Lexington also has an irrigation meter policy where a second meter can be installed for lawn watering or other types of irrigation uses.

The most frequently asked question that we receive about water quality concerns the 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 piping connection 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 household pipes since before World War II. Although the majority of the 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 place. Also, note that lead can still be found in many brand new brass fixtures.

Lexington has an on-going "lead service replacement program" that was established when the Town had more than one home test above the Lead Action Level. Lexington has successfully passed the last 11 lead sampling collections, with the September 2011 lead result of 2.47 ppb compared to the Action Level of 15 ppb. Lexington is no longer mandated by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to maintain the lead service line replacement program but will continue to administer the program until all potential lead locations have been investigated and removed. To find out if you might have a lead service line and how it can be replaced, please contact the Water/Sewer Department at the number listed below.

I would also like to mention that the surcharging of the Town's Sewer System during rain storms is caused, in part, by illegal connections to the Town of Lexington sanitary sewer lines. Illegal connections include sump pumps that are tied to the sanitary sewer line directly with piping, or indirectly with hoses into slop sinks, floor drains, roof gutters, or from leaders tied into the sanitary sewer. Eight sump pumps can theoretically put as much water into the system while they are working as 200 homes discharging wastewater. This is a process we call I&I, or Inflow and Infiltration, where clear groundwater enters the sanitary system through leaks, cracked pipe, or sump pumps. We all need to work together to eliminate these connections and if you are not sure please give us a call and we will inspect your system and let you know if the setup is correct at no cost to you. Let's do all we can to reduce I&I in the Lexington system and we will all benefit in the long run.

If you have any questions or want to know about public meetings, please contact the Water and Sewer Division. Thank you.

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