



## City of Melrose PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply  
# 3178000

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Dear Consumer:

This annual report provides detailed information on the MWRA's source water reservoirs and the quality of our water as determined through federal and state criteria. Water quality test data, as well as definitions of the terms used in the drinking water industry are presented in clear and readily understandable language. We hope that this report provides you with a better understanding regarding your water supply. If you require more information on particular topics including on meetings, please call the City of Melrose Water Department staff at 781-979-4175. Other informational contacts and phone numbers are provided in the report for the MWRA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Locally, the City of Melrose is continuing an intensive city wide water construction program aimed at upgrading its water infrastructure. During the past nine years, Melrose has completed the construction of two new water pump stations and installed over 39,000 linear feet or nearly 7.2 miles of new 8", 10", 12" and 16" water mains to increase the ISO insurance fire flow ratings and local area fire flow improvements, and to improve water pressure and water quality of domestic water system. During 2011, Melrose replaced over 2,000 feet of water main. During 2012 the City will continue to replace old cast iron mains with new 8" and 10" ductile iron mains, install new copper water services and install new hydrants and gate valves to replace the aging and inoperable hydrants and gate valves.

In addition to these major water programs, the City is continuing its uni-directional hydrant flushing program, hydrant testing and leak detection programs. These preventive maintenance programs will decrease the buildup of iron and mineral deposits in our piping; reduce discoloration of water; reduce the likelihood of water main breaks; improve water accountability, quality and pressure; and identify areas of leakage and areas in need of repair within our system of approximately 90 road miles of water mains. In addition in 2004 the City instituted an in-house meter reading program for our 8,500 water customers, which allows better accountability for water usage and less lost or unaccounted for water use. In 2011, our overall water consumption was 793,300,000 gallons. This usage is about 4% less than the prior year.

We receive many inquiries about lead in the drinking water. The simple answer is there is no lead in the water supply; however, lead can enter your tap water through contact with brass fixtures (which contain lead in the alloy), lead solder (which is now outlawed), old lead plumbing in the house or in the service line from the main to your house. Melrose takes samples twice yearly from 15 homes with lead; lead/tin solder and verified lead solder services. In 2011, all of our samples tested below the action level of 15 ppb resulting in a community 90th percentile level of 12.5 ppb. Melrose continues to maintain an aggressive lead service testing program to insure the water being provided to the residents and through the schools is safe. In addition, Melrose administers a lead service replacement program of at least 7% of our known lead service locations each year. To find out if you might have a lead service line and how it can be replaced, please contact the Melrose Water Department at 781-979-4172 and ask to speak to an engineer. For more information about the potential for lead in the tap water and steps you can take to reduce exposure, please see page 5 or contact the Melrose Water Department.

In addition to the lead sampling program, Melrose tests residential tap water samples weekly for coliform, an indicator of bacteria, which may signal the presence of more serious bacteria. Should background coliform be noted in any sample, further testing is done to determine the presence of more hazardous organisms. No background coliform was found in any sample during 2011.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Beshara, P.E.  
City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works