



## Swampscott Board of Public Works

Elihu Thompson Building  
22 Monument Avenue  
Swampscott, Ma 01907-1977  
781-569-8860  
Fax 781-596-8826

Public Water Supply  
# 3291000

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 sources 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 2011 town wide leak detection survey. During the survey a total of five leaks were located which contributed to an estimated leakage of approximately 53,000 gallons per day. The subsequent repairs led to the reduction of water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA. However despite the repairs, Swampscott's unaccounted for water for the 2011 calendar year, rose slightly to eight percent. On the plus side, due to the water enterprise fund operating with a positive cash flow the Town's water rate remained static for FY'12.

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 2011 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 2.11 ppb, which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Please see page 5 for more information on lead in tap water. Similarly, for copper the 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 132 ppb, which is well below the Action Level of 1300 ppb.

As part of the town's continuing effort to upgrade its water distribution system, during the 2011 calendar year, the town re-lined the remaining section of 8-inch water main on Humphrey Street (from Salem Street to Stanley Road), as well as the 12-inch water main on the entire length of Salem Street. Additionally, the six-inch water main on Humphrey Street, from Stanley Road to the Marblehead line, was replaced with a new 8-inch main. This project was accomplished using MWRA zero interest loans, and was the twelfth year in which the town has taken advantage of the MWRA's financial assistance. Plans for 2012 tentatively consist of re-laying the 6-inch water mains on Roy Street and Melvin Ave, and replacing them with a new 8-inch main.

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 including on meetings, 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