

Your Community



Town of Reading DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply
3246000

Dear Water Consumer:

The Town of Reading Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is pleased to provide you with the 2012 Drinking Water Report.

During 2012 the Town used a total of 592.5 million gallons of water. The highest single day's consumption was 2.68 million gallons on July 16, 2012. The highest week's consumption was for the period July 8, 2012 to July 14, 2012 an amount of 16.34 million gallons and the highest month was July with an amount of 64.38 million gallons. Average daily usage was 1.62 million gallons. The gallon per capita per day (gpcpd), use by each individual for 2012 was 46 gallons per person per day which is 41.4% below the State mandated 65 gpcpd.

The DPW Water Conservation Program continued with great success. In 2012 the program issued nearly \$41,000 in rebates and distributed 319 free retrofit water saving devices to residents. Since 2004 over \$496,000 in rebates has been distributed. The program consists of rebates for water saving fixtures, rain barrels, irrigation system rain sensors, complimentary residential and irrigation system water audits, retrofit water saving devices, general public outreach and education, school education and outreach, and system wide leak detection. The school education and outreach program provided in class instruction to all individual third grade classes on the MWRA and Town distribution systems as well as water conservation information. For further information and participation in the program, please call the DPW at 781-942-9077, ENE Audit Hotline at 1-888-772-4242, the rebate Hotline at 781-942-0050, or visit the Town of Reading website, Water Conservation page at http://www.ci.reading.ma.us/Pages/ReadingMA_Water/conservation/index.

The DPW continues to maintain and upgrade the water system. Highlights include, 4,000 feet of new water mains, 10 new fire hydrants as well as 7,700 feet of water main replacement, 5 broken water mains repaired, 41 new water services installed, 23 water services replaced, 17 water service leaks repaired, 2 fire hydrants replaced, 3 fire hydrants repaired, and 71 fire hydrants rebuilt.

The Reading Water Department maintains an active Cross-Connection Program to protect against cross connections between the public water supply and sources of potential contamination. Any time a homeowner uses a hose to spray fertilizer or other chemicals they have created a cross connection and could potentially contaminate the water in their own home. The Water Department encourages all customers to install hose bib vacuum breakers (available at any hardware store) on all hose connections. Please contact Jim Richardson, Water Distribution Supervisor at 781-942-9092 for more information on preventing backflow.

Drinking water issues are also addressed through the Board of Selectmen, which generally meet on the first, third and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. Questions about Drinking Water Quality can also be answered by contacting the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or on the web at www.epa.gov/ow.

Jeffrey T. Zager
Director of Public Works

READING'S WATER QUALITY RESULTS: Listed below are the 3 substances detected by Reading's Water Department in the drinking water during 2012. For a complete list of the substances detected by the MWRA in the drinking water please view the accompanying MWRA 2012 Drinking Water Report.

Regulated Compounds

| Compound | Units | Highest Level Found | Range of Detections | MCL | MCLG (Ideal Goals) | Violation yes/no | How it gets in the water | Sample Date |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Chlorine (Total) | ppm | 2.8 | 0.01-2.8 ¹ | 4 | 4 | no | Water additive to control microbes | 2012 |
| Lead | ppb | 6.2 ³ | 0.1-21.2 | (AL) 15 ² | 0 | no | Corrosion of household plumbing | 2011 |
| Copper | ppb | 107 ³ | 7.3-120 | (AL) 1300 ² | 0 | no | Corrosion of household plumbing | 2011 |
| Nitrate | ppm | 0.006 | 0-0.006 | 10 | 10 | no | Atmospheric deposition | 2012 |
| Nitrite | ppm | 0.67 | 0.47-0.67 | 1 | 1 | no | Water disinfection | 2012 |

Footnotes: 1-This range and results are based on the individual samples analyzed in 2012. 2-Lead and Copper Action Level based on 90th percentile result. 3-90th percentile results.

Abbreviations: ppm – parts per million; ppb – parts per billion; MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level; MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; (AL) – Action Level

For any additional information please contact: Peter Tassi, Supervisor Water Supply & Quality, Department of Public Works, 75 New Crossing Road, Reading, Massachusetts 01867, Tel. (781) 942-9199