



## Town of Bedford DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply  
# 3023000

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### TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY

Bedford uses an average of 900,000 gallons of water a day with a summer peak of 3.4 million gallons per day. About 85% of this water is supplied by the MWRA through three 12-inch diameter connections along the Lexington town line. The remaining 15% is supplied by Bedford from the Shawsheen Groundwater Treatment Facility Series of three gravel packed wells. The wells aid in times of high demand and offset the full purchase price of MWRA water. In an emergency, Bedford can also be supplied by the Town of Burlington.

### WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

In addition to the Shawsheen Groundwater Facility, the Bedford Water Division maintains and operates approximately ninety miles of water main, eight hundred fire hydrants and three elevated storage tanks. We have annual programs for leak detection, water main rehabilitation, replacing older water meters, hydrant flushing and responding to the needs and concerns of our residents and business consumers. We also maintain an active Cross Connection Control Program, semiannually inspecting commercial and industrial buildings to test devices that protect the water system from backflows.

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

Mass DEP conducted a Sanitary Survey in November 2013 to assess the daily operations of the Town's water distribution system. Although the final report hasn't been issued by DEP yet, we are confident that the system has a very low susceptibility to contamination. Bedford provides treatment of the groundwater supply that meets all drinking water standards. We also conduct extensive monitoring as described below.

### WATER ANALYSIS

Bedford and the MWRA analyze water samples regularly to ensure we meet all federal standards. In 2013, we tested for more than 1500 parameters. The table below shows the amount and regulated limit of each contaminant that was tested. Bedford has successfully maintained lead and copper levels well below the EPA requirements. However, if you have any questions or concerns about lead in your drinking water and would like to have it tested, please contact the DPW.

In 2013 we had detects of non-harmful, non-pathogenic bacteria called Total Coliform that bloomed in response to high water temperatures. Between July and October we received numerous detections of Total Coliform with August being the highest month at 57% positive. This was a violation of the DEP standards. We performed many follow-up tests for *E.coli* and we never detected any. When the weather became cold, we stopped seeing Total Coliform after October.

If you would like to find out more about Bedford's water supply or attend public meetings, please call or visit our website at contacts listed below.

Peter Churchill, Water & Sewer Operations Mgr. (781) 275-7605 [www.bedfordma.gov](http://www.bedfordma.gov).

Parameter	Units	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	Highest Level Found	MCLG (Ideal Goals)	Violation	How it gets in the water
Fluoride <sup>1</sup>	ppm	4	1.5* Single day spike	4	No	Added to water to fight tooth decay
Secondary Contaminants	ppm	No set level	20 tests demonstrated high water quality		No	Naturally present in the environment
Dichloromethane	ppb	5	0.9	0	No	Runoff from industry
Perchlorate <sup>2</sup>	ppb	2	0.08	0	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate	ppb	10	0.43	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80 <sup>3</sup>	48.8 <sup>4</sup>	0	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60 <sup>3</sup>	15.1 <sup>4</sup>	0	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Lead	ppb	AL=15	2 <sup>5</sup>	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.158	0	No	

ppm=parts per million, ppb=parts per billion, MCL=maximum contaminant level. <sup>1</sup>Fluoride is a measure of the amount of chemical added to the water by Bedford. <sup>2</sup>Due to our proximity to an airport, we perform this precautionary test. <sup>3</sup>Highest levels allowed (MCL) for this substance is based on the average of four quarterly samples. <sup>4</sup>Highest detected level is based on average of four quarterly samples. <sup>5</sup>For lead, the Action Level (AL) and the highest level found are based on the 90th percentile of the samples.