



AMERICA'S BEST
2014



City of Newton

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UTILITIES DIVISION

Public Water Supply
3207000

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WHAT NEWTON IS DOING TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

In addition to the actions taken by MWRA outlined in this report, the Newton Department of Public Works has taken steps to improve the quality of drinking water provided to Newton residents. The City's distribution system was evaluated in the early 1990s, resulting in an ongoing program of pipeline replacement, cleaning and lining of water mains, elimination of dead ends, and water main flushing. Typical of older distribution systems, the City of Newton's water pipes develop a layer of sediment and encrusted material known as tuberculation. This can affect taste, odor and color. During rehabilitation, interior walls of pipes are restored, eliminating the tuberculation upon which bacteria can grow.

FLUSHING PROGRAM

The Department of Public Works has implemented an ongoing comprehensive flushing program designed to remove tuberculation and sediments from water mains. The program involves closing water gates and forcing water flow in two directions of high velocities, which scours the water mains.

WATER MAIN REHABILITATION & REPLACEMENT

Water main replacement is performed where the main is undersized or has corroded to such an extent that it is not structurally sound. The City of Newton is proposing to spend approximately 4.0 million dollars per year for at least the next 5 years to rehabilitate the water infrastructure, in conjunction with the MWRA. To keep construction costs at a minimum, water main rehabilitation is targeted on roads scheduled for resurfacing. Last year's construction included installation of new water mains on Prescott Street, Pleasant Street, Rogers Street and Lake Avenue, and cleaning and lining of water mains on Central Avenue, Crafts Street, Adams Street, and Washington Street.

METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

In an effort to enhance meter reading productivity and customer service, in addition to reducing the unaccounted-for water loss in the distribution system, the City is nearing completion of a citywide meter replacement program. This initiative will replace all residential and commercial water meters, which average more than 20 years old, and also introduce a fixed network automated meter reading system. To date approximately 24,948 of the City's 25,068 total meters have been replaced.

LEAK DETECTION

The City performs an annual water leak detection survey, where correlation technology is used to find leaks in the water distribution system. The leaks are documented for ongoing repairs by the Utilities Division.

MISCELLANEOUS UPGRADES

The City of Newton is undertaking a project to perform a distribution system prioritization planning project, in order to make better rehabilitation and replacement decisions.

TOTAL COLIFORM

The Department of Public Works collects 72 bacteriological samples each month to ensure the quality and protection of your drinking water. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of Total Coliform samples in a month test positive. In 2014 Newton's result for June was 1.1%. The results for all other months were zero.

LEAD AND COPPER

Many homes in Newton are known to have lead pipes and plumbing fixtures. Lead in drinking water is variable in the sample test results for some homes, but generally meets EPA Action Levels. Therefore the City recommends that flushing the tap water before drinking, and not using water from the hot water tap for cooking and drinking is the best way to reduce the potential for lead exposure. The City continues to investigate for existing lead service pipes, and will replace them when discovered. Laboratory services are available from an independent firm, which will test for lead and copper. Interested residents should contact the water office in room 105 at City Hall. For sampling instructions call 617-796-1040.

September 2014 Lead & Copper Results			
	Range	90% Value	(Target) Action Level
Lead	0.183-6.21 ppb	3.39 ppb	15 ppb
Copper	6.6-118 ppb	111 ppb	1300 ppb

The Department of Public Works is committed to providing the best possible water quality to its customers. For more information including meeting schedules, contact the Public Works Utilities Division at [617-796-1640](tel:617-796-1640) or visit our web site at www.newton.ma.gov.

David Tuocy
Commissioner of Public Works