



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
Annual Test Results  
2015

# YOUR WATER

ANSWERS  
TO YOUR  
▶ LEAD ◀  
QUESTIONS  
INSIDE

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Si usted desea obtener una copia de este reporte en español, llámenos al teléfono 617-788-1190.

La relazione contiene importanti informazioni sulla qualità dell'acqua della Comunità. Tra-durlo o parlame con un amico che lo comprenda.

O relatório contém informações importantes sobre a qualidade da água da comunidade. Tra-duza-o ou peça a alguém que o ajude a entendê-lo melhor.

Sprawozdanie zawiera ważne informacje na temat jakości wody w Twojej miejscowości. Poproś kogoś o przełumaczenie go lub porozmawiaj z osobą która je dobrze rozumie.

بحقوقي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة من نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك يرجى ترجمته أو ائمت التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيداً

Η έκθεση περιέχει πληροφορίες σημαντικές για το ποσό του νερού που πίνετε. Παρακαλούμε να το μεταφράσετε ή να το εξηγήσετε για εσάς από το κείμενο που το παραθέτουμε στα ελληνικά.

Im Bericht steht wichtige Information über die Qualität des Wassers Ihrer Gemeinschaft. Der Bericht soll übersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit einem Freund, der ihn gut versteht.

这份报告中有非常重要的信息。讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

આ રિપોર્ટ માં પીવા માટેના પાણીની ગુણવત્તા અંગેની મહત્વની માહિતી આપવામાં આવી છે. કૃપા કરીને અન્ય કોઈ સહયોગી સહુ સાથે આ રિપોર્ટ વાંચવા માટે આજ્ઞા કરવામાં આવી છે.

ထိုစာတမ်းသည် အသောက်ရေ၏ အရည်အသွေးအား ပြသရာတွင် အရေးကြီးသည့် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။ အချက်အလက်များကို နားလည်ရန်အတွက် ဤစာတမ်းကို ဖတ်ရှုခြင်း သို့မဟုတ် အခြားသူများထံမှ အကူအညီတောင်းဆိုခြင်းကို အကြံပြုပါသည်။

이 보고서는 귀하의 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the  
Chicopee Water Dept., South Hadley F.D. #1, and  
Wilbraham Water Division

## Where To Go For Further Information

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)	<a href="http://www.mwra.com">www.mwra.com</a>	617-242-5323
Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dep">www.mass.gov/dep</a>	617-292-5500
Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH)	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dph">www.mass.gov/dph</a>	617-624-6000
Department of Conservation and Recreation	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm">www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm</a>	617-626-1250
US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>	800-232-4636
List of State Certified Water Quality Testing Labs	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/04water/html/testinglabs">www.mwra.com/04water/html/testinglabs</a>	617-242-5323
Source Water Assessment and Protection Reports	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/sourcewater.htm">www.mwra.com/sourcewater.htm</a>	617-242-5323
Information on Water Conservation	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/conservation.html">www.mwra.com/conservation.html</a>	617-242-SAVE

## Public Meetings

MWRA Board of Directors	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/02org/html/boardofdirectors">www.mwra.com/02org/html/boardofdirectors</a>	617-788-1117
MWRA Advisory Board	<a href="http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com">www.mwraadvisoryboard.com</a>	617-788-2050
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/02org/html/wscac.htm">www.mwra.com/02org/html/wscac.htm</a>	413-213-0454



For a large print version, call 617-242-5323.

This report is required under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. MWRA PWS ID# 6000000



► **Where Does Your Water Come From?**

**MWRA supplies about 10 million gallons** of high quality water each day to three Chicopee Valley Aqueduct communities: Chicopee, Wilbraham, and South Hadley Fire District #1 (FD#1). MWRA also serves 48 cities and towns in greater Boston and MetroWest. Your water comes from Quabbin Reservoir. Water from the Ware River can add to the supply at times.

Rain and snow falling on the watersheds - protected land around the reservoirs - turn into streams that flow to the reservoirs. Water comes in contact with soil, rock, plants, and other material as it follows nature's path to the reservoir. While this process helps clean the water, it can also dissolve and carry very small amounts of material into the reservoir. Minerals from soil and rock do not usually cause problems in the water. But water can also transport contaminants from human and animal activity. These can include bacteria and pathogens - some of which can cause illness. The test results in this report show that these are not a problem in Quabbin Reservoir's watershed.

The Quabbin watershed is protected naturally as over 90% of the watershed is covered in forest and wetlands. About 83% of the total watershed land cannot be developed. The natural undeveloped watershed helps to keep MWRA water clean and clear. Also, to ensure safety, the streams and the reservoir are tested often and patrolled daily by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for the Quabbin Reservoir. The DEP report commends DCR and MWRA on the existing source water protection plans, and states that our "watershed protection programs are very successful and greatly reduce the actual risk of contamination." The report recommends that DCR and MWRA maintain present watershed plans and continue to work with the residents, farmers, and other interested parties to maintain the pristine watershed areas.



Dear Customer,

You have probably seen many news reports about lead in drinking water over the last few months, particularly in Flint, Michigan. We want you to know that your water is safe.

It is important to know that the water delivered to your home does not contain lead but some homes have lead in the plumbing. But all three Chicopee Valley Aqueduct communities treat the water they deliver to make it less corrosive and less likely for lead to leach into the water. This treatment has been very successful, and all three CVA communities have been below the EPA Lead Action Level.

There are many differences between our water system and Flint's. Our water source – the Quabbin Reservoir is clean and well-protected; our treatment – MWRA utilizes state-of-the-art UV treatment to disinfect the water without adding a lot of chemicals; and our people – the scientists, operators and managers who run the system, and the regulators that oversee the process, all work together to ensure your water is as safe as possible.

In addition to lead, MWRA takes tens of thousands of tests each year for 120 contaminants, and your water met every state and federal drinking water standard. Please read the information on page 4 to learn about your community's local water system.

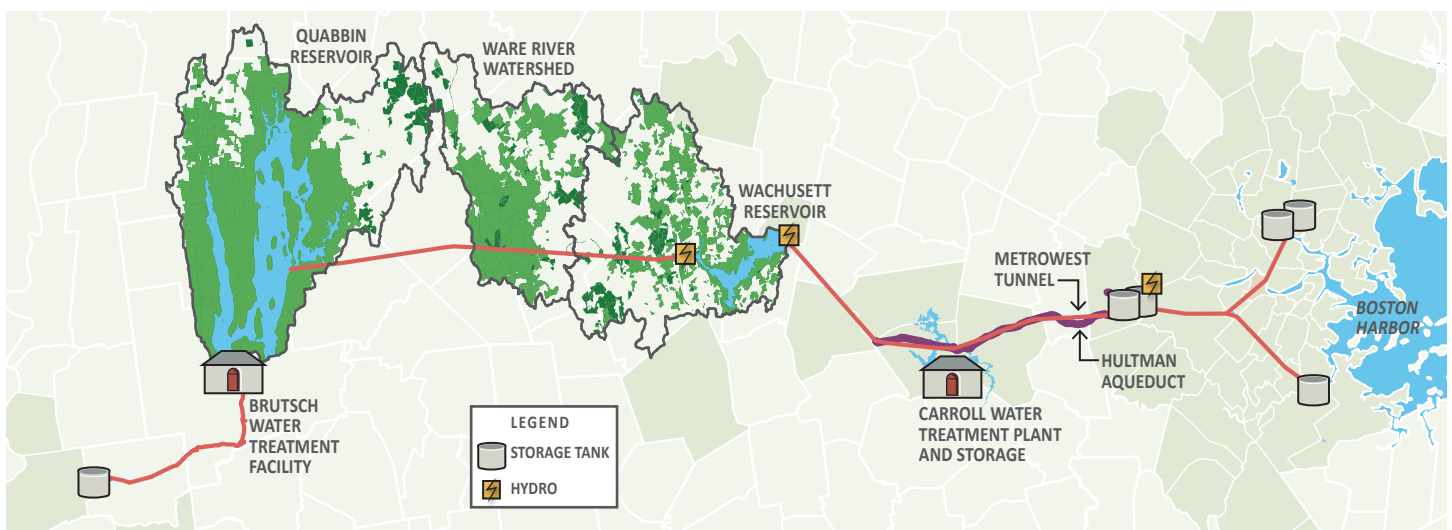
We hope you take a few moments to read this report. The best way to ensure your safety is to stay informed. We have great confidence in the water we deliver to over 2 million customers and we want you to, as well. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about your water quality or any of MWRA's programs.

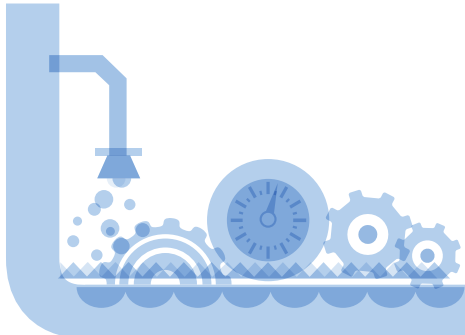
Sincerely,

Frederick A. Laskey  
Executive Director

**MWRA Board of Directors**

Matthew A. Beaton, Chairman • John J. Carroll, Vice-Chair • Joseph C. Foti, Secretary • Austin F. Blackmon  
Kevin L. Cotter • Paul E. Flanagan • Andrew M. Pappastergion • Brian Peña • Henry F. Vitale  
John J. Walsh • Jennifer L. Wolowicz



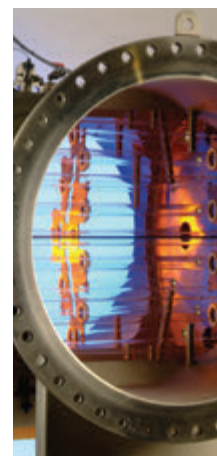


**MONITORING WATER QUALITY IN REAL TIME** – Your water is monitored by a state-of-the-art system in real time – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – to make sure it is free of contaminants. This allows MWRA to respond to changes in water quality almost immediately.



**WHAT IS UV?**

UV light is essentially a more potent form of natural disinfection from sunlight. UV lamps emit rays of intense light which shine through the water providing disinfection. No chemicals are added, and there is no residual effect once the water leaves the reactor. UV disinfection has been identified by EPA as one of the best technologies to inactivate pathogens, and provides an extra layer of protection against possible contaminants.



► **Water Treatment – From the Reservoir to Community Pipelines**

Your water is treated at the new Brutsch Water Treatment Facility before it enters the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct. The first treatment step is disinfection of reservoir water. MWRA’s licensed treatment operators carefully add measured doses of chlorine, and then further treat the water with UV light. Both disinfection processes are designed to kill pathogens (germs) that may be present in the water. Licensed operators in Chicopee perform additional booster disinfection at the point where the local pipes take water from the Aqueduct. Each community also treats the water to reduce leaching of lead from home plumbing.

Water must travel through the 15-mile Chicopee Valley Aqueduct and through some of the hundreds of miles of local distribution pipes under your streets before it reaches your tap. To continue providing high quality water, each part of the water system needs routine maintenance and, when necessary, improvements or new facilities.

MWRA completed an ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection plant in 2014 to meet new EPA standards. With UV light, CVA water now has state-of-the-art disinfection, and ensures clean water for many years to come.

► **Testing Your Water – Every Step of the Way**

Test results show few contaminants are found in the reservoir water. The few that are found are in very small amounts, well below EPA’s standards. Turbidity (or cloudiness of water) is one measure of overall water quality. There are two standards for turbidity: all water must be below 5 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units), and only can be above 1 NTU if it does not interfere with effective disinfection. In 2015, turbidity was always below both the EPA and DEP standards, with the highest level of 0.56 NTU. Typical levels at the Quabbin Reservoir are 0.3 NTU.

MWRA also tests reservoir water for pathogens - such as fecal coliform, bacteria, viruses, and the parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. They can enter the water from animal or human waste. In 2015, all test results were well within state and federal testing and treatment standards.

► **Test Results – After Treatment**

EPA and state regulations require many water quality tests after treatment to check the water you are drinking. MWRA conducts tens of thousands of test per year on over 120 contaminants (a complete list is available on [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com)). Details about test results are in the table below.



**TEST RESULTS – AFTER TREATMENT**

Compound	Units	(MCL) Highest Level Allowed	(We found) Detected Level-Average	Range of Detections	(MCLG) Ideal Goal	Violation	How it gets in the water
► Barium	ppm	2	0.006	0.006	2	No	Common mineral in nature
► Nitrate	ppm	10	0.012 <sup>^</sup>	0-0.012	10	No	Atmospheric deposition

**KEY:** MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology. MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. ppm=parts per million <sup>^</sup>As required by DEP, the maximum result is reported for nitrate, not the average.



**PROTECTING RESERVOIRS WHILE PROVIDING OPEN SPACE** – The best way to deliver clean, safe water is to start with high quality source water. Since 1985, \$131 million has been invested in land preservation around the Quabbin, Ware and Wachusett watersheds.



# You Have Questions. We Have Answers.



► **Tests in Community Pipes**  
**MWRA and local water departments** work together to test water all the way to the tap. We test samples of water in the city and town systems each week for total coliform and *E.coli* bacteria. Total coliform bacteria can come from the intestines of warm-blooded animals, or can be found in soil, plants, or other places. Most of the time, these bacteria are not harmful. However, their presence could signal that harmful bacteria from fecal waste may be there as well. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of the samples in a given month may be positive. If a water sample does test positive, we run more specific tests for *E.coli*, which is a bacteria found in human and animal fecal waste and may cause illness. No *E.coli* was found in any CVA community in 2015. Single total coliform positive samples were found in South Hadley FD#1 in January and September. Neither sample was above the EPA standard.

► **Drinking Water and People with Weakened Immune Systems**  
**Some people** may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by

*Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

► **Contaminants in Bottled Water and Tap Water**

**Drinking water**, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or MWRA. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts DEP and EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

► **Research for New Regulations**

**MWRA has been working** with EPA and other researchers to define new national drinking water standards by testing for unregulated contaminants. To read more about these regulations, and to see a listing of what was found in MWRA water, please visit [www.mwra.com/CVA/UCMR/2015.html](http://www.mwra.com/CVA/UCMR/2015.html).



**HOW WOULD I KNOW ABOUT A PROBLEM WITH MY WATER SUPPLY?**

MWRA and your local water department keep close watch on your water supply. If there is a problem with your water, you would get the news by radio, television, state and local government, health officials, and from the MWRA.



**INFORMATION ABOUT CROSS CONNECTIONS**

Massachusetts DEP recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices for inside and outside hose connections. For more information on cross connections and how to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town, please visit [www.mwra.com/crosscon.html](http://www.mwra.com/crosscon.html) or call 617-242-5323.

**INFORMATION FROM**  
your local water  
department

► **Chicopee**

**Phone: 413-594-3420 PWS ID# 1061000**

The Chicopee Water Department's Corrosion Control Facility continues to provide excellent water quality by adjusting the water's pH and alkalinity levels. Sodium Carbonate and Sodium Bicarbonate (baking soda) are used to make this adjustment. A phosphate blend also adds an extra level of protection by further reducing corrosion throughout the system. The benefits of these treatment processes are evident in the reduced level of dissolved metals such as lead, copper, and iron in the city's water supply.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, water samples must be collected specifically for the analysis of lead and copper. Household plumbing is the main contributor of these metals in our drinking water and the water's chemistry is adjusted to minimize corrosion well before it reaches the homes of Chicopee's residents.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reduced the number of samples that must be collected by the Chicopee Water Department due to its successful maintenance of low to absent levels of lead and copper in the water system. In 2015, there were 30 samples collected for the analysis of lead and copper in Chicopee's drinking water, and once again the results were excellent. The 90th percentile was 1.9 ppb, well below the Action Level of 15 ppb. The next round of lead and copper samples will be collected in the spring of 2018. Chicopee did receive a violation notice for sampling one home that was previously approved in 2012, but was not listed for sampling in 2015.

The Chicopee Water Department maintains 274 miles of distribution water mains through over 16,000 connections to approximately 55,000 residents. Water main projects are ongoing across the service area, and we also continue to respond to leaks and maintain emergency service 24/7.

► **South Hadley Fire District #1**

**Phone: 413-532-0666 PWS ID# 1275000**

At our treatment facility located in Ludlow, Sodium Silicate is added to the water for corrosion control in order to comply with the federally mandated Lead and Copper Rule since 1998. Our next required sampling round of 30 homes will be spring of 2016.

Within the past year, our crew has repaired six water main breaks and five service leaks throughout the distribution system. In addition to the repair work, eleven new services have been connected to the distribution system. We continue to improve our water mains with our replacement program. Water main replacements are prioritized by leak history, pipe type and the annual street paving list provided by the DPW. This collaboration results in reduced costs and extending pavement integrity. This program will continue as funding and time permit.

This past year, we replaced a total of 1600 feet of mains on Highland Ave., 900 ft. on Fulton St., and of 600 ft. on Dayton St., including fire hydrants and water services on all streets. In addition, we replaced 500 ft. across the intersection of Newton and Lyman St. The new mains will ensure reliability of supply and fire protection. The Board recognizes the hard-working efforts of our staff installing the new water mains with in-house equipment. In addition to the water main work, we completed the interior painting of our 1.5 million gallon water storage tank located on Mulligan Drive. The new coating system should provide corrosion protection for at least 20 -25 years. We also installed a mixing system in order to maintain chlorine residuals within the tank and the distribution system.

We feel strongly that the Water Department – Fire District No.1 has been operated very efficiently by providing the residents with what they expect from a municipal department at the lowest possible cost. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Fire Department, Police Department, Fire District No. 2 and the Town Departments for their cooperation. Please take a moment to view our website with historical, and frequently updated information about our Department at the following address [www.shdistrict1.org](http://www.shdistrict1.org).

► **Wilbraham**

**Phone: 413-596-2807 PWS ID# 1339000**

The Corrosion Control Facility on Miller Street in Ludlow, which injects sodium silicate into the drinking water, continues to operate successfully. MA DEP required Lead and Copper sampling was accomplished at twenty homes and two schools during the summer of 2015. The results were once again excellent. The 90th percentile for lead was 4.1 ppb, well below the Action Level of 15 ppb.

During 2015, the list of duties performed by the Water Division included: 16 new water service installations, two fire hydrants were replaced and 105 fire hydrants were flushed and checked for proper drainage. Thirty-five miles of water main were checked for leaks. During 2015, a Master Plan for the water system was developed by our engineering consultant and submitted to MA DEP.

In December, 2015 the Water Division was awarded a grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement of the Brookmont Drive and McIntosh Drive emergency generator project. Mass DEP has required the Water Division to have standby emergency generators at both Water Booster Stations.

Water usage was approximately 10% higher in 2015 (441.4 million gallons) than it was the previous two years. Water usage was up primarily due to the warm and dry spring and summer we had in 2015.





**MWRA TAKES CUSTOMER CONCERNS SERIOUSLY** – Every call is investigated to ensure that there are no problems with the water supply. Most complaints are related to discolored water, which is usually related to local construction or hydrant use. If you have a question or concern about your water, please call your local water department or MWRA at 617-242-5323.

# Answers to Your Questions on Lead.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM EPA ABOUT LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MWRA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### ► What You Need to Know About Lead in Tap Water

**MWRA water is lead-free when** it leaves the reservoirs. MWRA and local pipes that carry the water to your community are made mostly of iron and steel and do not add lead to the water. However, lead can get into tap water through pipes in your home, your service line (the pipe that leads from the street to your house) if it is made of lead, lead solder used in plumbing, and some brass fixtures. Corrosion or

wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long time in the pipes before it is used. Lead levels found in tap water in sampled homes have dropped significantly since CVA communities improved treatment to make water less corrosive. This means the water is less likely to absorb lead from pipes and other fixtures.

### ► CVA Communities Met Lead Standard in 2015

**Under Environmental Protection Agency** regulations, each year your local water department must test tap water in a sample of homes that are likely to have high lead levels. These are usually older homes with lead service lines or lead solder. The EPA rule requires that 9 out of 10, or 90%, of these sampled homes must have lead levels below the Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). All three CVA communities were below the lead Action Level in 2015.



## What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure in Drinking Water?

Let the water run before using: fresh water is better than stale! To save water, fill a pitcher with fresh water and place in the refrigerator for future use.	Any time water has gone unused for more than 6 hours, run each faucet used for drinking or cooking until after the water becomes cold.	Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking, especially when making baby formula or other food for infants.	Find out if you have a lead service line. Contact your local water department, or for more information visit the MWRA website.	Remove loose lead solder and debris. Every few months remove the aerator from each faucet in your home and flush the pipes for 3-5 minutes.	Be careful of places you may find lead in or near your home. Paint, soil, dust and some pottery may contain lead.	Call the Department of Public Health at 800-532-9571 or EPA at 800-424-LEAD for health information.
--	--	---	--	---	---	---

MOST RECENT TEST RESULTS	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in ppb MCL=80 ppb (Avg) MCLG=no standard		Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) in ppb MCL=60 ppb(Avg) MCLG=no standard		Chlorine in ppm MRDL=4 ppm (Avg) MRDL=4ppm		Lead in ppb Action Level (AL)=15 ppb MCLG=0		Copper in ppm AL=1.3 ppm MCLG=0	
	Annual Average	Range	Annual Average	Range	Annual Average	Range	# Samples Over AL	90% Value	# Samples Over AL	90% Value
► Chicopee	54.8	29.9-63.6	38.8	9.2-57.1	1.03	0.11-1.43	1 of 30	1.9	0 of 30	0.15
► South Hadley FD #1	56.6	29.0-62.6	22.8	12.7-29.8	0.65	0.14-1.07	3 of 30	5.4^	0 of 30	0.03^
► Wilbraham	68.7	42.4-87.9	26.8	13.7-33.8	0.4	0.2-1.0	0 of 20	4.1	0 of 20	0.14

**KEY:** MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology. MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. ^=Results are from 2013. Next sampling is in 2016.



# Water Conservation at Home

## ▶ Watch What You Waste!

Wasting water can add up quickly. On average, each person in the MWRA region uses about 60 gallons of water each day. More efficient water use can reduce the impact on the water supply and on your wallet. For ways to make your home and your habits more water efficient, contact the MWRA at 617-242-SAVE or visit [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) for tips on how to save water indoors and in your backyard.

## ▶ How to Find and Fix Leaks

Dripping, trickling or leaking faucets, showerheads and toilets can waste up to several hundred gallons of water a week, depending on the size of the leaks. Worn-out washers are the main causes of leaks in faucets and showerheads. A new washer generally costs about 25 cents.

That trickling sound you hear in the bathroom could be a leaky toilet, but sometimes toilets leak silently. **TRY THIS:** Crush a dye tablet and carefully empty the contents into the center of the toilet tank and allow it to dissolve or use a few drops of food coloring. Wait about 10 minutes. Inspect the toilet bowl for signs of dye indicating a leak. If the dye has appeared in the bowl, your flapper or flush valve may need to be replaced. Parts are inexpensive and fairly easy to replace. If no dye has appeared after 10 minutes, you probably don't have a leak.



## ▶ Install Low-Flow Showerhead and Faucet Aerators

Some showerheads may still use over 5 gallons per minute. A low-flow showerhead can use up to 50% less and can save you over 20 gallons per 10 minute shower. In one year, that's over 7,000 gallons. Faucets can use 2 to 7 gallons per minute – a low-flow aerator can reduce the flow by about 25%.

## ▶ The Inch Rule for Water Savings Outdoors

Most lawns, shrubs, vegetables, and flowers need just one inch of rainfall during the week. If there has been an inch of rainfall during the week, you don't have to water at all. Overwatering can actually weaken your lawn by encouraging shallow roots that are less tolerant of dry periods and more likely to be damaged by insects.

## ▶ Promote Tap Water!

Let everyone know that you are drinking some of the best water in the world! Put a sticker on your reusable water bottle and fill it with tap water. Contact MWRA if you would like to receive a free sticker.



### Further Information

For more water saving ideas, go to: [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) or call 617-242-SAVE.

### Follow Outdoor Water Saving Ground Rules

Water your lawn (and other landscaping) in early morning or evening to avoid evaporation.

Be sure sprinklers water only your lawn, not your pavement

Never use water on a windy day.

Never use the hose to clean debris from your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom.

Apply mulch around plants to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth, and control weeds.