



Town of Medford
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply
3176000

This 2009 Drinking Water Report provides information to residents of Medford on their water supply. The City of Medford works in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to communicate where your water comes from, how it is treated and tested, and how we get it to your tap. We know that consumers today have a deep interest in the quality and cost of water. Our hope is that this and other publications you receive help you better understand your water system. In this report we discuss improvements to the physical system itself as well as inform you about the quality of your drinking water.

Medford's Department of Public Works maintains the water distribution system that consists of a network of pipes, valves, hydrants, and service lines. This system takes water from the MWRA system and delivers water to homes, businesses, and other facilities for drinking and commercial uses. The system is also used for fire protection. The City is constantly improving the system, replacing mains when necessary. Also, on a daily basis our water crews are constantly on the look out for water systems leaks, checking and verifying pressures, replacing faulty meters, and flushing pipelines to keep the water as clean as possible.

Lead Results for Medford

We receive many inquiries about lead in the drinking water. The simple answer is there is no lead in the water supply; however, lead can enter your tap water through contact with brass fixtures (which contain lead in the alloy), lead solder (which is now outlawed), old lead plumbing in the house or in the service line from the main to your house.

Each year, MWRA and local water departments test tap water in homes that are likely to have high lead levels - usually 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).

Lead results have decreased over the past 10 years. During the September sampling round, the Medford Water Department's 90th percentile level was 21.9 ppb. Two of the fifteen sampling sites exceeded the lead Action Level. The City of Medford has taken the following steps to address the problem:

- a. Identified lead service lines in the City and determined which are City owned.
- b. Established a program to annually remove 280 (7%) of all of the identified City-owned lead service lines. Medford's program is more aggressive and is replacing more than the required number each year.
- c. Notified all owners of the property served by lead lines of their responsibility regarding replacement of the lead service line and informed the owners of the City's lead reduction program. For more information on this program, call the City Engineer's Office at 781-393-2475.

For more information on lead in tap water and practical steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in tap water, please see page 5 of the main report.

The Medford Water Department hopes you find this report informative and useful. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other water related questions, you can call the Medford Department of Public Works at 781-393-2419.
