



Town of Reading DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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 2009 Drinking Water Report.

During 2009 the Town used a total of 619.7 million gallons of water. The highest single day's consumption was 2.56 million gallons on August 19, 2009. The highest week's consumption was for the period August 16, 2009 to August 22, 2009, an amount of 16.36 million gallons, and the highest month was August with an amount of 61.4 million gallons. Average day usage was 1.70 million gallons. The gallon per capita per day (gpcpd) use by each individual for 2009 was 48 gallons per person per day which is 35.4% below the State mandated 65 gpcpd.

The DPW Water Conservation Program continued with great success. In 2009 the program issued over \$59,000 in rebates and distributed 495 free retrofit water saving devices to residents. Since 2004 over \$300,000 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. For further information and participation in the program, please call the rebate Hotline at 781-942-0050, ENE Audit Hotline at 1-888-772-4242, the DPW at 781-942-9077 or visit the Town of Reading website at www.readingma.gov.

The DPW continues to maintain and upgrade the water system. Highlights include, 1,000 feet of new water main, 20 broken water mains repaired, 1,611 5/8" to 1" meters replaced, 19 new water services installed, 17 water services replaced, 39 water services replaced from main to sidewalk shut off, 16 water service leaks repaired, 7 fire hydrants replaced, 10 fire hydrants repaired, and 37 fire hydrants rebuilt. A complete interior and exterior inspection of the Auburn Street elevated water storage tank was completed.

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. Anytime 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 5 substances detected by Reading's Water Department in the drinking water during 2009 and prior 3 years. For a complete list of the substances detected by the MWRA in the drinking water please view the accompanying MWRA 2009 Drinking Water Report.

Compound	Units	Highest Level Found	Range of Directions	MCL	MCLG (Ideal Goals)	Violation yes/no	How it gets in the water	Sample Date
REGULATED COMPOUNDS								
Chlorine (Total)	ppm	2.6	0.02-2.6 ²	4	4	no	Water additive to control microbes	2009
Lead ³	ppb	5.9 ⁴	0-26	(AL) 15	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing	2009
Copper ³	ppb	97.1 ⁴	4.2-140	(AL) 1300	0	no	Corrosion of household plumbing	2009

Footnotes: 1-Results based on a running annual average of data from current and previous 3 quarters. 2-This range or value is based on the individual samples analyzed in 2009. 3-Lead and copper Action Level based on 90th percentile result. 4-90th percentile results.

Abbreviations: **ppm** – parts per million; **ppb** – parts per billion; **(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