

Water & Sewer Department

121 Glen Road, Wilmington,
Massachusetts 01887

Public Water Supply
#3342000

Office of the Superintendent
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Wilmington, MA 01887

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Where Does My Water Come From?

The Wilmington Water Department provides drinking water to 99 percent of all the residents and businesses in Wilmington. Most of the water is groundwater, pumped from four wells located throughout Wilmington. Since the discovery of NDMA in the five Maple Meadow Brook aquifer wells, the Water Department does not use these wells. From the wells, the source water is pumped to one of two water treatment plants. There, the water is treated using filtration and disinfection to remove or reduce any harmful contaminants from the source water. From the treatment plants, the water is pumped to one of three storage tanks and to the homes and businesses in Wilmington. To provide the highest protection for the source water, Wilmington has established Zoning, Inhabitant and Board of Health bylaws, which include groundwater protection, floor drain regulations, and water use restrictions. The Town maintains interconnections and agreements with North Reading, Burlington, and Woburn. The MWRA supplies additional water to the Town to supplement water demands our water system cannot meet.

How Is My Water Treated & Purified?

The treatment process begins with aeration, which reduces carbon dioxide levels to lower treatment costs and also improves taste. Next, aluminum sulfate (alum) is added to the water before it passes into the flocculation basins. The alum prompts small particles to coagulate, or stick together, forming floc particles and removing color from the water. The floc particles continue to grow and stick together, becoming heavier before moving into the settling basins. Potassium permanganate is added to oxidize and remove iron and manganese because iron and manganese may cause undesirable color, taste, and odor in water. In the settling basins, the floc particles settle to the bottom forming a layer of solids, which is removed by a siphon device and discharged to lagoons. The clear water at the top of the settling basin flows into the filter basins. The filter basins consist of 4 feet of granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove any remaining fine particles. The GAC filter also removes any remaining taste and odor, volatile organic compounds, and aids in polishing the water as it passes through the filter to the final process steps. Chloramine is a form of chlorine that is created by adding ammonium sulfate to the water after chlorine is added. We have invested in the use of ammonium sulfate, a food-grade substance that safely transforms chlorine to form chloramines. Like chlorine, chloramine also keeps the water safe by protecting against biological growth throughout the distribution system, but it also produces less disinfection by-products. The finished water is pumped throughout the town by our vast underground distribution system of 126 miles and is stored in three water tanks for handling peak demand periods. Our top priority is to provide safe, good-tasting, high-quality drinking water.

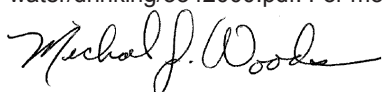
Mandatory Outdoor Water Restrictions~ No Outdoor Watering between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Sprinkler Systems: Both above ground or installed underground, can be used once per week, subject to the restrictions above. VIOLATION OF THESE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS WILL RESULT IN A MINIMUM \$50.00 PER DAY FINE! The Water Department could institute a full outdoor watering ban in the future. Please watch for future notices on WCTV and in your local newspaper. Thank you for your cooperation.

Notice of Noncompliance (NON)~ On November 9, 2010, DEP issued a NON to the Wilmington Water Department for failing to submit the results of water quality samples for Volatile Organic Contaminants and Perchlorate. The samples were collected as required during the July-September 2010 period, but the results were not submitted to the State as required. After receiving the NON, the Water Department followed the NON requirement by submitting the missing results as quickly as possible. No further actions need to be taken by the public or Water Department.

Water & Sewer Commission Meetings~ The Water and Sewer Commission meets the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA, unless otherwise posted. Please call in advance if you have a specific issue you would like to discuss, and we will be sure to include your topic on our agenda.

SUBSTANCE (Contaminant)	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTION	MCL	MCLG	SOURCES OF CONTAMINANT
Nitrates (ppm)	1.6	nd-1.6	10	10	Fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrites (ppm)	0.28	nd-0.28	1	1	Fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	27	nd-27	60	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	64	13-64	80	na	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Sodium	76	42-76	na	na	Naturally occurring, road runoff
LEAD AND COPPER					
	90th PERCENTILE	# OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING AL	ACTION LEVEL (AL)		
Lead (ppb)	13	0	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	0.08	0	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing

If you would like to see a copy of our SWAP report, it is available at the Wilmington Water Department and online at www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3342000.pdf. For more information call the Wilmington Water Department at (978) 658-4711.



Michael J. Woods, Superintendent
Wilmington Water Department