

# Your Community



## Town of Bedford DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply  
# 3023000

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### TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY

Bedford uses an average of 1.2 million gallons of water per day. From July 20, 2012, 100% of the water was supplied by the MWRA through three connections located at Page Road, the Great Road and Wiggins Avenue.

### WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

Bedford's Water Department maintains and operates approximately 84.5 miles of water main, 800 fire hydrants, three water storage tanks and numerous gate valves and service valves in addition to the ground water treatment facility at the Shawsheen River.

### WATER ANALYSIS

Bedford and the MWRA analyze water samples regularly to ensure we meet all standards.

Our biggest challenge in 2012 was dealing with non-harmful, non-pathogenic bacteria called Total Coliform that bloomed in response to high water temperatures. During this period when we received numerous "hits" of total coliform (218 Total Coliform positives July – October), exhaustive testing was conducted and NO DISEASE CAUSING BACTERIA were ever found. The highest month was July when 70% of total coliform samples were positive. This was above the standard of a maximum of 5% per month. A Total Coliform positive from the lab is an alert to check for *E.coli*; we did and NEVER found *E.coli* during the summer of 2012. Had *E.Coli* been found, there would have been an immediate boil order. When the cold season came upon us, we ceased seeing Total Coliform in the water samples in October of 2012.

	Units	MCL (Highest Level Allowed)	Highest Level Found	MCLG (Ideal Goals)	Violation	How it gets in the water
Chlorine	ppm	4	0.52 <sup>1</sup>	0	No	Drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	8.6 <sup>1</sup>	ns	No	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	7.3 <sup>1</sup>	ns	No	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Lead <sup>3</sup>	ppb	AL=15	3 <sup>2</sup> 1 of 30 sites over	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper <sup>3</sup>	ppm	AL=1.3	0.137 <sup>2</sup>	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

KEY: MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level MCLG-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal ppm-parts per million ppb-parts per billion AL-Action Level

<sup>1</sup> Highest detected level is based on average of quarterly samples as required by regulation. <sup>2</sup> For lead and copper, the Action Level (AL) and the highest level found are based on the 90th percentile of the samples. <sup>3</sup> These results are from 2011.

Meetings: If you would like to attend a meeting or find out more about Bedford's water supply, please call or visit our website.

Peter Churchill, Water and Sewer Superintendent  
Department of Public Works