



## Swampscott Board of Public Works

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Public Water Supply  
# 3291000

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The Swampscott Department of Public Works, PWS ID #329100, is pleased to provide this annual newsletter to keep you informed about your water system. We would like to provide a recap of the major points for any new customers or residents who may not have seen last year's newsletter.

### **Our Distribution System**

The Town of Swampscott purchases all of its water directly from the MWRA. The water is delivered through two MWRA master meters into the town's distribution system. The distribution system consists of the network of pipes, valves, hydrants and service lines. The system delivers water to homes, businesses and other facilities for drinking and other uses. The system is also used for fire protection.

Swampscott's distribution system is comprised of approximately fifty-eight miles of water mains ranging from six-inch to sixteen-inch diameter. There are four hundred and seventy-three hydrants that are owned and maintained by the town. There are approximately fourteen hundred gate valves that allow isolated portions of the system to be shut down for repairs and maintenance. Seventy percent of the pipes in the distribution system are over fifty years old with the majority being unlined cast iron pipe. Unlined pipe allows tuberculation (rust) to grow on the inside surfaces of the pipe. While not a health problem, these tubercles can affect the ability of the pipe to carry flows for fire protection purposes and can affect the appearance of the water, such as yellow and red water problems.

In addition to steps taken by the MWRA to protect water quality, the Town of Swampscott has continued to make improvements to the water system. Improvements include a 2013 town-wide leak detection survey. During the survey a total of five leaks were located which contributed to an estimated leakage of approximately 123,600 gallons per day. The subsequent repairs led to the reduction of unaccounted water that the Town of Swampscott is purchasing from the MWRA.

### **Lead and Copper Results**

The Town is responsible for conducting lead and copper test samples on a newly regulated annual basis. It is important to note that the water supplied by the MWRA does not contain any lead. However, Swampscott remains concerned about lead in tap water. Therefore, we test fifteen homes yearly. The 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 3.02 ppb, which is below the Action Level of 15 ppb. Similarly, for copper the 90th percentile level for Swampscott was 114 ppb, which is well below the Action Level of 1300 ppb. For more information about the potential presence of lead in tap water and steps that may be taken to reduce exposure, please see page 5.

### **Total Coliform Testing in Community Pipes**

The MWRA and Swampscott test nine water samples each bi-weekly for total coliform bacteria. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of the samples in a month may be positive. Swampscott had a 4.8% positive result in the month of October. All follow-up samples were clear, and this was not a concern.

The Town of Swampscott is committed to providing its residents with the best water possible. As our customers, we hope that you will find this report informative and useful. If you would like to obtain additional information on particular subjects, or have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works, at (781) 596-8860, or email the Director at [gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us](mailto:gcresta@town.swampscott.ma.us). You may also contact MWRA directly using the phone number listed in this report.

Gino A. Cresta Jr., Director of Public Works