



Town of Winthrop
Department of Public Works
100 Kennedy Drive, Winthrop, MA 02152

Public Water Supply
3346000

Dear Water Customer:

The Winthrop Department of Public Works is pleased to provide this annual water quality report to keep you informed about our water distribution system.

Our Distribution System: The Town of Winthrop purchases all of its water directly from the MWRA. We are happy to have a partnership with the MWRA in our mission to supply some of the best quality water in the country. This water is delivered through a series of master meters and the pressure is regulated at the town's pressure reducing station before being conveyed through a network of buried water mains and ultimately to your home or business.

Leak Detection: The Town of Winthrop undergoes an annual leak detection survey to help locate leaks and to reduce unaccounted for water. This past survey discovered 7 service leaks, 1 leaking hydrant, and one compromised section of water main. All leaks were promptly repaired.

Backflow Protection: The Town of Winthrop continues to enforce the DEP mandated cross connection control and prevention program to prevent contamination from entering our distribution system. In 2013, the department conducted 96 backflow prevention device tests town-wide.

Hydrant Flushing Program: The Water Division has continued our 15 phase unidirectional flushing program. This is a very important program that helps maintain water quality by removing naturally occurring sediments in the water mains that can cause taste, odor, and turbidity problems for consumers. This program also serves the community by exercising gate valves and inspecting and testing hydrants to ensure adequate fire protection. Five phases of this program were completed in 2013.

Water System Maintenance: The DPW Water Division is responsible for operating and maintaining the Pressure Reducing Station, 46 miles of buried water mains, a 1 million gallon capacity stand-pipe, 500 fire hydrants and 4,500 service connections.

In 2013 the Water Division repaired 5 water main breaks and converted 4 lead services to copper. An additional 53 services were replaced with copper through an MWRA-funded water main replacement project, of which 26 were complete lead replacements. This project also accounted for the replacement of approximately 3,200 feet of water main in excess of 75 years old. The division also replaced 12 fire hydrants and repaired 4 more.

Lead in your water: The Department of Public Works is committed to reducing the amount of lead in our water distribution system and is actively monitoring for excessive limits of lead and copper. This includes regular sampling of our water to preserve the quality. One of the testing protocols is for lead and copper, which occurs once per year in September. In 2013, Winthrop was above the lead Action Level with a result of 17.4 ppb. The first round of follow-up sampling in 2014 was below the lead Action Level. The copper level was below the Action Level at 154 ppb. In addition to regular sampling, the Winthrop DPW has taken the following steps to address lead and copper:

- Has completely identified the remaining lead services and continues to update the database to account for converted services.
- Continued our program to remove 7% of the Town-owned portion of the remaining lead services coupled with a program that offers homeowners an opportunity to replace the private portion of the service.
- Is committed to making lead line replacement a priority in planning and defining scope for MWRA-funded water main replacement projects.

Local Testing: MWRA and Winthrop test 24 water samples each week for total coliform bacteria. The EPA requires that no more than 5% of the samples in a month may be positive. In October, 3.7% of samples were positive. This was not a concern, and all follow-up samples were clear.

Property owners with existing lead services, who wish to participate in the lead removal program or want further details, are encouraged to call the DPW at 617-846-1341 or email scalla@town.winthrop.ma.us. We urge owners of older homes and buildings to inspect their plumbing and, if possible, replace fittings that have lead joints or lead solder. We also encourage you to review the information contained in this report to take practical steps to reduce exposure to lead and other common contaminants.

We truly hope you find this report useful and informative. If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Winthrop DPW, the MWRA, or other contacts such as the DEP or EPA as listed herein.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Calla
Public Works Director / Water Superintendent