



City of Waltham DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water Supply
3308000

Engineering Department – Water Division
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The Waltham Engineering Department 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 City of Waltham purchases all of its water directly from the MWRA. The water is delivered through seven MWRA master meters into the City'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.

Waltham's distribution system is comprised of approximately 170 miles of water mains ranging from four-inch to thirty-inch diameter. There are approximately 1,600 fire hydrants that are owned and maintained by the City. There are approximately 3,300 gate valves that allow isolated portions of the system to be shut down for repairs and maintenance. The majority of the City's pipes consist of cast iron and ductile iron pipe, 62% of which are unlined. 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 fighting purposes and can affect the appearance of the water, such as yellow and red water problems.

Through the Capital Improvement Plan, improvements are being made to update these water mains. In 2014, the City installed new water mains on four streets: Cedar St., Oak St., Plympton St, and Willard St. The new pipes will provide improved water pressure to approximately 93 residences. Approximately 171 new water services and 14 new hydrants were also installed.

Lead and Copper Results

The Waltham Water Division tests for lead in 15 homes once a year. In 2014, Waltham met the Lead Action Level of 15 ppb, with a result of 10.4 ppb in the September sampling round. 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 Tests in Community Pipes

MWRA and Waltham test eighteen 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 June, July, and August, 3.7% of samples were positive in Waltham. Repeat samples were taken, and the water met all federal and state standards.

If you have any questions or comments on your water or would like information on public meetings, please call us at the following numbers.

Water Bills/Meters	781-314-3810
Water Operations/Meetings	781-314-3855
Engineering Office	781-314-3830
MWRA	617-242-5323

Stephen A. Casazza, P.E.
City Engineer