

Is tap water safe?

This brochure explains how drinking water provided by the Mashpee Water District is of the highest quality. Included is a listing of results from water quality tests and their explanations. We are proud to share these results with you.



To insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Mashpee Water District: dependable water quality

This annual report on the quality of the water delivered by the Mashpee Water District contains information on where your water comes from, results of water testing performed in 2008 and sources of information for our customers to learn more about the water they are drinking.

We are pleased to provide this information to you and urge you to call us at 508-477-6767 or stop by the office located at 79 Industrial Drive in the Mashpee Industrial Park with any questions or comments regarding this report.

The Mashpee Water District takes pride in informing you that your water is safe to drink. We also want you to know your water meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements.

These sources are ground water. The Mashpee Water District's Public Water System ID number is 4172039. The MWD has emergency connections with the town of Falmouth, the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative and the Cotuit Fire District Water Department.



▲ Pumping Stations

Cross connections

A cross connection occurs whenever a potable drinking water line is directly or indirectly connected to a nonpotable piece of equipment or piping.

Examples of nonpotable equipment may include fire protection, lawn irrigation, air conditioning or cooling systems as well as high-pressure boilers.

The Mashpee Water District would like you to know that unprotected cross connections can contaminate drinking water in your home and the homes neighboring you.

Contact the Mashpee Water District for more information regarding cross connections and how to avoid them.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report of the Mashpee Water District in June 2003. A SWAP report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve supply protection by identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination. The report helps focus protection efforts on appropriate Best Management Practices. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to the Mashpee Water District using information collected during the assessment. A copy of the report is available, upon request, from the Mashpee Water District Office or online at www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/4172039.pdf. For more information, call 508-477-6767.

Lead and Copper

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Mashpee Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When our water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water quality testing results

Water samples from 2008

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Levels Detected	Highest Level Detected	Violation	Typical Source
Organics						
Tetrachloroethylene(PCE)*	0	5ppb	0-1.2ppb	1.2ppb	NO	Leaching from vinyl lined transite water mains
Unregulated						
Chloroform	N/A	N/A	0-2ppb	2ppb	NO	Regulations require us to monitor this substance while EPA considers setting a limit. Naturally present in the environment.
Sodium	N/A	N/A	6.4-14.1ppm	14.1ppm	NO	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	4.9-9.9ppm	9.9ppm	NO	Naturally occurring
Nickel	N/A	N/A	0-.012ppm	.012ppm	NO	Naturally occurring
Inorganics						
Nitrate	10ppm	10ppm	.39-2.02ppm	2.02ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	2ppm	2ppm	0-.048ppm	.048ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos**	7mfl	7mfl	<0.175mfl	<0.175mfl	NO	Decay of asbestos cement water mains & erosion of natural deposits
Lead**	0	AL=15ppb 0 of 30 sites above AL	90th percentile 6ppb	9ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper**	1.3ppm	AL=1.3ppm 0 of 30 sites	90th percentile .31ppm above AL	.48ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform	0	>5% of samples taken	0ppm	0ppm	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Radionuclides						
Gross Alpha**	N/A	15pCi/L	N/A	1.4pCi/L(+/-1.3pCi/L)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium226**	N/A	5pCi/L	N/A	0.3pCi/L(+/-0.3pCi/L)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228**	N/A	5pCi/L	N/A	0.1pCi/L(+/-0.4pCi/L)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Table key

ppm one part per million; the equivalent of one cent in \$10,000
ppb one part per billion; the equivalent of one cent in \$10,000,000
mfl microfibers per liter
ND None detected in the District's Water
MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
AL Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
pCi/L (picocuries per liter) A measure of radioactivity.
Treatment Technique(TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

* We continue to flush the water mains in affected areas and continue to sample for PCE
** Data presented is from most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations for these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Help us help you

- Check for and fix leaks right away
- Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full
- Turn the water off while you shave or brush your teeth
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the water to cool it off before drinking
- Use a broom or rake, not a hose to clean driveways
- Place mulch around plants to retain moisture
- Water your lawn or garden in the early morning or early evening. Water only when necessary and never leave a garden hose running unattended.
- If you are considering an automatic irrigation system, you must connect it to a private source. The Water District, in an effort to conserve water, no longer allows new irrigation systems to connect to the District supply.



79 Industrial Drive
Mashpee, MA 02649

We are pleased to inform you that in 2008 no District water samples exceeded the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act MCL.

For more info

Water Commissioners regular meetings are held at the District office at 79 Industrial Drive in Mashpee. For dates and times or more information contact Andrew Marks at 508.477.6767.

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MASHPEE, MA
PERMIT NO. 59