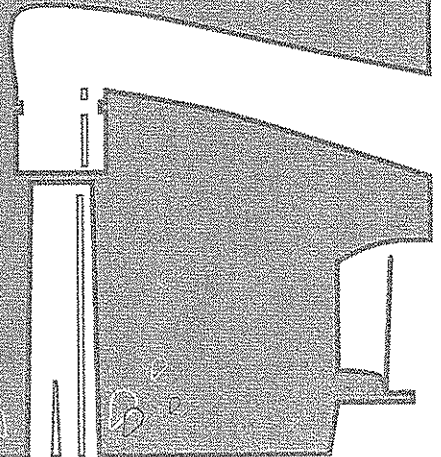


Wrentham Department of Public Works  
360 Taunton Street  
PO Box 658  
Wrentham, MA 02093

TOWN OF WRENTHAM  
**WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
FOR 2012

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER



**WATER QUALITY SUMMARY** Listed below are the 10 contaminants detected in Wrentham's drinking water in 2012 or within the last 5 years if we were not required to test in 2012 for a previously detected contaminant. Not listed are over 100 other contaminants for which we tested but did not detect.

**SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM THE FIVE WELL SUPPLIES**

| Substance<br>(Contaminant)  | Units | Highest<br>Level<br>Detected | Range<br>of<br>Detection | Highest<br>Level<br>Allowed<br>(EPA's MCLs) | Ideal<br>Goals<br>(EPA's MCLGs) | Sources of Contaminant  |
|---|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>  |       |                              |                          |   |                                 |   |
| Nitrate   | ppm   | 1.9                          | 0.55 - 1.9               | 10  | 10                              | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium <sup>1</sup>   | ppm   | 32.0                         | 30.0 - 32.0              | UR  | UR                              | Naturally present in the environment  |
| Perchlorate <sup>2</sup>  | ppb   | 0.145                        | ND - 0.145               | 2   | N/A                             | Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents                   |
| Barium  | ppm   | 0.022                        | 0.011 - 0.022            | 2   | 2                               | Discharge of drilling wastes and/or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Nickel <sup>3</sup>   | ppm   | 0.002                        | ND - 0.002               | UR  | UR                              | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| <b>RADIOISOTOPES</b>  |       |                              |                          |   |                                 |   |
| Alpha Emitters  | pCi/L | 1.0                          | 0 - 1.0                  | 15  | 0                               | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Combined Radium   | pCi/L | 0.6                          | 0 - 0.6                  | 5   | 0                               | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| <b>SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>         |       |                              |                          |   |                                 |   |
| Substance<br>(Contaminant)  | Units | Highest<br>Level<br>Detected | Range<br>of<br>Detection | Highest<br>Level<br>Allowed<br>(EPA's MCLs) | Ideal<br>Goals<br>(EPA's MCLGs) | Sources of Contaminant  |
| <b>MICROBIOLOGY</b>   |       |                              |                          |   |                                 |   |
| Total Coliform Bacteria<br>(Highest Number of Detections per Month) | —     | 5                            | ND - 5                   | 1   | 0                               | Naturally present in the environment  |

**SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM YOUR FAUCETS**

| Substance<br>(Contaminant) | Units | 90th<br>Percentile | Range<br>of<br>Detection | Action<br>Level<br>(EPA's MCLs) | Ideal<br>Goals<br>(EPA's MCLGs) | Sources of Contaminant                  |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b> |       |                    |                          |                                 |                                 |   |
| Copper <sup>4</sup>        | ppm   | 0.139              | 0.018 - 0.218            | 1.3                             | 1.3                             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Lead <sup>5</sup>          | ppb   | 6                  | ND - 17                  | 15                              | 0                               | Corrosion of household plumbing systems |

**DEFINITIONS**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure, with a margin of safety. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

**Action Level** – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes, 9 were at or below this level.

**ppm** – One part per million; one part per million is equivalent to \$1 in \$1,000,000.

**ppb** – One part per billion; one part per billion is equivalent to \$1 in \$1,000,000,000.

**pCi/L** – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**ND** – Substance not detected in the sample.

**UR** – Unregulated.

\*The ORSG for sodium is 20 ppm. Above this level, sodium sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the levels of sodium in their drinking water where exposures are carefully being controlled.

\*\*The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Perchlorate samples were collected in 2011.

†The ORSG for nickel is 0.1 ppm.

‡The action level was not exceeded in any of the 20 samples.

§The action level was exceeded in two of the 20 samples.

## VIOLATIONS

### Total Coliform Bacteria

Monthly MCL violations occurred in February and July 2012. The bacteria problem, for both occurrences, was corrected by adding chlorine to the storage tanks and flushing the affected areas.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**LEAD** 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 Wrentham D.P.W. Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**THE SUBSTANCES FOUND IN YOUR TAP WATER** 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

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

**Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Radioactive contaminants** 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 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**IS OUR WATER SAFE FOR EVERYONE?** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER** The Wrentham Department of Public Works Water Division (PWS No. 4350000) is committed to providing our customers with high quality drinking water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards for quality and safety. To ensure delivery of a quality product, we have made significant investments in treatment facilities, water quality monitoring, and the distribution system. We are pleased to report the results of our 2012 water testing to inform you about your drinking water. Each year we will be either mailing a water quality report directly to you or printing a water quality report in the newspaper, with copies available to you upon request.

**WRENTHAM'S WATER SYSTEM** Our water system includes five groundwater supply wells, treatment facilities for the entire groundwater supply, three water storage tanks, and approximately 90 miles of water main piping. In addition, the town maintains six emergency interconnections with neighboring water distribution systems, including two with the Town of Norfolk, one with the Town of Foxborough, and one with the Town of Franklin. The other two connections are with the Wrentham Development Center (WDC), which operates the Wrentham State School. Wrentham supplied the Town of Norfolk and MCI Norfolk with 5.0 million gallons of water, through the Shears Street interconnection during 2012, to supplement their supplies.

**WRENTHAM'S WATER TREATMENT** In order to meet state and federal requirements for public drinking water, our source water receives the following treatment before it is supplied to our customers. We treat our water for corrosion control and disinfection as detailed in the table below. The pH of the water is raised with potassium hydroxide to reduce its corrosivity in household plumbing. Ultraviolet light is used for disinfection of the water from the wells. Chlorine is used for disinfection as a back-up and for disinfection of the distribution system, when needed.

| TREATMENT                           | TREATMENT FACILITIES                   |  |                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
|                                     | TF No. 3<br>(Treats Well #2 & Well #3) | TF No. 4<br>(Treats Well #4 & Well #6) | TF No. 5<br>(Treats Well #5) |
| pH Adjustment for Corrosion Control | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Chlorine for Disinfection           | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Ultraviolet Light for Disinfection  | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/>     |

**ANY QUESTIONS?** Want to know more about the Wrentham water supply system or interested in participating in the decision-making process? Please call Jack Manchester, Water Superintendent, or Dean Johnson, Water Division Supervisor, at the Wrentham Department of Public Works at 508-384-5477 with any questions, comments, or concerns. We are located at 360 Taunton Street off of Route 140. We encourage all customers to attend and participate in the Board of Selectmen meetings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall, 79 South Street.

**WATER RATES** Water rates did not increase in 2012. The rates remained the same as follows: \$30.00 Administrative Charge per bill; \$4.90 per thousand gallons of water used up to 50,000 gallons and \$5.90 per thousand gallons of water used over 50,000 gallons.

**WATER DEMANDS** In 2012, the Wrentham D.P.W. Water Division pumped 380.0 million gallons of water into the distribution system. The highest amount pumped in one day was 2.4 million gallons on July 21, 2012.

**SWAP** What is SWAP? The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogen and chemicals.

What is my system's ranking? A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during assessment by the DEP. The wells are located in aquifers with high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeological barriers (i.e. clay) that can prevent the migration of contamination.

Where can I see the SWAP report? The complete SWAP report is available at the Wrentham Department of Public Works, Water Division office. For more information, call Jack Manchester at 508-384-5477.

**CROSS CONNECTION EDUCATION** A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. An attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Wrentham Water Division recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town! For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact John Rivers at the Water Division office.