

2021 Consumer Confidence Report Southwick Water Department • Southwick, Massachusetts **MASSDEP PWSID # 1279000**



This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Address: 454 College Highway Southwick, MA 01077 Contact Person: Randal Brown, P.E, DPW Director Telephone #: 413-569-6772 Internet Address: www.southwickma.org/water-division

Water System Improvements Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified

operator who oversees the routine operations of our system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system: designed a transmission main replacement project to increase the capacity of the Jarry Drive Pump Station, designed and permitted a new chemical feed system for Well 1, replaced approx. 500' of aging and undersized water main,

replaced 5 aging hydrants, and continued routine flushing at various locations. In December 2021, MassDEP conducted the latest Sanitary Survey. In 2022, the Water Department took actions to address items raised in the report. Those actions will be reported in the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report.

Opportunities for Public Participation If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the following meetings: Board of Water Commissioners typically meet on the first and/or third Thursday each month at 6pm at Town Hall unless posted otherwise.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE Where Does My Drinking Water Come From? Southwick's water system is composed of 51 miles of water mains, 2 wells, 4

pumping stations, and 2 storage tanks. Southwick also maintains an interconnection with SWSC to provide a supplemental water supply source during times of peak demand. Southwick's drinking water originates from the Great Brook Aquifer. Over the years, the Town has purchased over 232 acres of land over the aquifer in order to control land use and preserve water quality.

Source Name	Mass DEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source		
Great Brook Well # 1	1279000-01G	Ground Water	Northeast Section of Southwick		
Great Brook Well # 2	1279000-02G	Ground Water	Northeast Section of Southwick		
Cobble Mountain Reservoir	1281000-02S	Surface Water	Interconnection with Springfield Water		
Borden Brook Reservoir	1281000-04S	Surface Water	Interconnection with Springfield Water		

Is My Water Treated?

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we add a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required. How Are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. What is My System's Ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report? The complete SWAP report is available at the DPW Office at Town Hall and online at https://www.mass.gov/servicedetails/the-source-water-assessmentprotection-swap-program. For more information call the Southwick Water Department at 413-569-6772.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN 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.

source water include:

Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff,

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

certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and 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).

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 some 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).

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. Southwick Water Department 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 or at http:// www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

IMPORTANT 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. Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements

that a water system must follow 90th Percentile - Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) - These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based. Unregulated Contaminants - Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Office of Research and Standards Guideline (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. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - The average of four consecutive quarter of data. Maximum Residual Disinfectant **Level (MRDL)** -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chlora mines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health.

MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control micro bial contaminants.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

N/A = Not Applicable

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regu lations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for synthetic organic contaminants in 2015 and inorganic contaminants at the point of entry in 2014 because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contami nants were found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for synthetic organic con taminants, inorganic contanninants and perchlorate because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

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	Date(s) Collected		90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of si samp	ites led	# of sites above Action Level			Possible Source of Contamination		
Lead and Copper - Residential													
Lead (ppm)	8/3/2020 - 8/5/2020 & 8/17/2020 - 8/18/2020		0.0053	0.015	0	23		0		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
Copper (ppm)	8/3/2020 - 8/5/2020 & 8/17/2020 - 8/18/2020		0.14	1.3	1.3	23	23 0)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives			
	Date(s) Collected		Range Detected	Action Level	MCLG	# of si samp	ites led	# of sites above Action Level		Possible Source of Contamination			
Lead and Copper - School & Early Education and Care Facilities													
Lead (ppm)	9/29/2020		< 0.001- 0.026	0.015	0	4	4		1 Cor nat		sion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of I deposits		
Copper (ppm)	9/29/2020		0.0749- 0.222	1.3	1.3	4		0		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives			
Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highes Highe Averag	at Result or st Running ge Detected	Range Detected	MCI MR	_ or DL	MC MR	LG or IDLG	Violation (Y / N)		Possible Source(s) of Contamination		
Inorganic Contaminants													
Barium (ppm)	11/17/2020	0.252		0.252	2	2		2	N		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits		
Nitrate (ppm)	10/12/2021	1.85		0.809-2.9	10	0		10	N		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits		
Perchlorate (ppb)	7/13/2021	0.74		0.74	2	2	Ν	N/A	N		Rocket Propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents		
PFAS6 (ppt)	3/9/2021 & 4/7/2021	& 4.93 1		0-4.93	20	1 0		N/A	N		Discharges and emissions from industrial and manu- facturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Ad- ditional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.		
Disinfectants and Disinfed	tion By-Product	s											
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2021	61.22		24.6-82.5	80		Ν	N/A M			Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2021	55.25		29.6-92.3	60	D	Ν	N/A M			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection		
Chlorine (ppm) (free)	Daily in 2021	0.16		0-0.27	4			4 N			Water additive used to control microbes		
Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.													
Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Res Ra Dete	ult or nge ected	Average Detected	SMC	CL	OF	RSG		Possible Source			
Sodium (ppm)	11/17/2020	9.	81	9.81	N/.	A	:	20	Discha contair	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium - containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents			
** Iron (ppb)	5/19/2020	<	50	< 50	30	0	Ν	N/A	Natura	aturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes			
** Manganese (ppb)	5/19/2020	<	:2	<2	50)	He Adv of	ealth /isory 300	Natura	tural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses			
рН	Daily	7.	56	7.56	6.5-	8.5	Ν	N/A	Runoff	off and leaching from natual deposits; seawater influence			

Contaminants that may be present in

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 stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production,

mining, and farming and residential uses.

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 Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS **Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?**

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

Drinking Water Violations

There were no drinking water violations in our system for the 2021 calendar year.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATON **Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention**

The Southwick Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is

clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers or withdrawal point from a surface water source, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to

come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is a backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that each and every water customer

has a responsibility to help prevent. What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Back Pressure:



High pressure in non-potable system.

Back Siphonage:



Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards. they are:

• NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.

• NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.

• Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.

- · Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- · Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.

• Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.