

Potential Substances in Water

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, 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, 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 water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Quality Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the MADEP and 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. We treat our water according to EPA’s regulations.

Important Health Information

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

A **cross-connection or backflow** can be a serious health hazard as a result of chemical or bacterial contamination of the drinking water system. Backflow prevention devices must be installed and must be maintained to eliminate backflow of contamination into our drinking water supply. Community water supplies are continuously vulnerable to cross-connection contamination unless protected by properly maintained backflow prevention devices. All industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities within the District have been surveyed according to Massachusetts Division of Drinking Water Regulations to prevent cross-connection contamination. If you have a residential irrigation or fire sprinkler system we urge you to do your part in protecting the District’s drinking water by also installing and maintaining appropriate backflow prevention devices in your home.

Water Conservation Outside

- Minimize the size of your lawn as lawn watering may consume more than 30% of summer residential water use. Use mulch around plants and shrubs and choose plants that don’t need much water.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.
- Sweep clippings and leaves from walks and driveways rather than using the hose.
- Dracut’s Outside Watering Guidelines allow odd numbered houses on Wed, Fri, and Sun and even numbered houses on Tues, Thurs, and Sat. No watering on Mondays. In the event time restrictions are required customers will be notified in the local news media along with community signs.
- Underground sprinkler systems require moisture sensors.

Water Conservation in Your Home

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Don’t use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- When washing hands, brushing teeth or shaving, use only as much water as you need.

The District’s Website contains many useful information. One of the new features includes enhanced customer account information access and payments through Invoice Cloud. Once you register your account on-line, you can make payments, review your invoice payment history, go paperless and schedule automatic payments. It’s fast, easy, safe, secure and eco-friendly. Check out the District’s home page at www.dracutwater.com.

Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System

Inspect

sprinkler heads.

A broken one can waste **25,000** gallons of water in six months!

Connect

hoses and pipes well.

A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste **6,300** gallons of water per month!

Direct

spray on landscapes, not pavement!

Select

a WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller and water smarter.









epa.gov/watersense

Imagine a Day Without Water No water to shower or brush your teeth. When you flush the toilet, nothing happens. Firefighters can’t put out the fires. Manufacturing stops. Restaurants close. Doctor can’t wash their hands.

Our drinking water and wastewater systems face multi-faceted problems. The infrastructure is aging and in need of investment. Drought, flooding, and climate change stress water systems.

Out of sight, out of mind?

There are three unseen Water Systems that work independently of one another to manage the flow of water in Dracut and Tyngsboro. The drinking water system utilizes more than **100 miles of pipe** to deliver safe drinking water to homes and businesses across the Towns. And while the Water District does a good job bringing safe, reliable, and affordable water to customers, the residents should know that just because the infrastructure is invisible to us, it doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. Water might fall from the sky and flow through our rivers to the ground, but it is far from free.

59 Hopkins Street
Dracut, MA 01826
PWSID 3079000

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 211
Dracut, MA

2017 Water Quality Report

To our Customers:

We are pleased to present our 2017 Water Quality Report. The report presents important information about our operations, the quality of the water and useful water conservation tips on water use.

The District is governed by 3 elected Water Commissioners and operated by 10 employees. We are here to serve you 24 hours a day—365 days a year. The District continues to improve ways to better serve our customers. Our financial audit report shows a healthy financial picture. The revenues that we collected are being used responsibly on system’s operations and many current and future improvement projects.

In the year of 2018, we will be focusing on the following: To replace the water transmission mains at Tyngsboro Wellfield. To replace the out-of-date individual household water meters. To replace two old wells in the wellfield. To apply for a new Water Management Act Permit from Mass DEP, so we are allowed to withdraw water from our wellfield.

We are committed to providing safe and high quality drinking water to our customers. We pledge to continue to work on the behalf of all the District customers and we welcome your constructive criticism in order to improve the efficiency of the District operations.

Water Commissioners:
Robert Corey, William “Zee” Zielinski, William Morin

Have you noticed?

1 bottled water (16.9 oz, in bulk)	\$0.45
1 large cup of Dunkin Donuts	\$2.50
2 liters of Coca-Cola	\$1.88
1 beer in neighborhood pub	\$7.00
1 gallon of DWSD water	\$0.0058

Water System
The Dracut Water Supply District provides water to the residents and businesses in two thirds of Dracut as well as parts of Tyngsboro. Our water is safe to drink and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

The Sources of Water
The District has 3 sources of water:

- One well field in Dracut (2 wells),
- One well field in Tyngsboro (5 wells),
- We purchase supplemental water from the City of Lowell.



Treatment of the Water
We provide a variety of treatments including potassium hydroxide and phosphate for corrosion control. Lowell water is filtered and treated by the City of Lowell.



Distribution of Water
We have 3 water storage tanks, 8 booster pump stations, 8 pressure zones with over 100 miles of water mains. We provide maintenance, repairs, and improvements to the water system. We also work with an engineering firm on a master plan for long term system improvement planning. Our goal is to provide good quality water and better service to you—our customers.



Source Water Assessment Protection (SWAP)
The SWAP program was established under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Call the office for a copy of the District's SWAP Report or check our website at www.dracutwater.com. For more information, please visit DEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/nero/3079000.pdf>.

Water Supply Sources & Swap Susceptibility	
Well Name	Source ID#
Zone II #:555	Susceptibility: Moderate
New Boston Well #1	3079000 03G
New Boston Well #2R	3079000 03G
Zone II #: 556	Susceptibility: Moderate
Frost Road Well #1	3079000 04G
Frost Road Well #2	3079000 05G
Frost Road Well #3	3079000 06G
Frost Road Well #4A&4B	3079000 10G/11G
Frost Road Well #5	3079000 08G

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. Dracut Water Supply District 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater, and surface water. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 µg/L, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 µg/L and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 µg/L, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 µg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days. See: MassDEP Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) for Manganese <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/i-t/hru-z/mangorsg.pdf>.

Water Quality Testing Results
Several times each year, your water is collected and tested for over 120 possible impurities. The table (below) provides information about substances that have been detected in the most recent water quality testing. Some of the tests were completed in years other than 2017. Because the water delivered to you could have come from either Lowell or Dracut or be a mix of the two, the data presented in the table represents the results of testing done by the Lowell Regional Water Utility and the Dracut Water Supply District. If you are interested in more information about the source of your water, contact the Dracut Water Supply District (978-957-0441).

CONTAMINANTS	Unit	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE	MCL/MRDL	MCLG/MRDLG	Violation	DATE	MAJOR SOURCES
Nitrate (NB)	ppm	1.68	N/A	10	0	NO	7/18/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (NB)	ppm	ND	N/A	1	0 ₄	NO	7/18/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (NB)	ppb	ND	N/A	2	NONE	NO	7/18/2017	Rocket propellant, fireworks, blasting agents
Manganese (NB)	ppm	0.05	0.02 to 0.09	NO MCL	0.30	NO	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (NB)	ppm	56.0	N/A	NO MCL	NONE	NO	1/23/2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 (NB)	pCi/L	0.93 (±0.47)	N/A	5	0	NO	7/24/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (NB)	pCi/L	0.73 (± 0.30)	NA					
Nitrate (TWF)	ppm	0.96	N/A	10	0	NO	7/18/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (TWF)	ppm	ND	N/A	1	0 ₄	NO	7/18/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (TWF)	ppb	ND	N/A	2	NONE	NO	7/18/2017	Rocket propellant, fireworks, blasting agents
Manganese (TWF)	ppm	0.24	0.22 to 0.25	NO MCL	0.30	NO	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (TWF)	ppm	35.1	N/A	NO MCL	NONE	NO	1/23/2018	Erosion of natural deposits, road salt
Radium-226 (TWF)	pCi/L	ND	N/A	5	0	NO	7/24/2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (TWF)	pCi/L	1.07 (± 0.37)	N/A ₅					
Chlorine Residual	ppm	0.07	0.0 to 1.6	4	4	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform	P-A/100mL	2.8%	ND to 26.7%	E-coli detectaion	0	NO	2017	Naturally present in enviroment
Fluoride	ppm	0.56	0.14 to 1.27	4	4	NO	2017	Water additive
Copper	ppm	0 of 30 ¹	N/D to 0.3	1.3 (Action Level)	1.3	NO	2016 ³	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
		0.23 ²						
Lead	ppb	1 of 30 ¹	N/D to 22	15 (Action Level)	0	NO	2016 ³	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
		0 ²						
Turbidity	NTU	0.16	0.02 to 0.16	1.0	TT=100%	NO	2017	Soil runoff
				TT = percentage of samples less than 0.3				
Nitrate	ppm	0.45	N/A	10	10	NO	2017	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	0.76	0.64 to 0.76	4	4	NO	2017	Water additive
Chlorine Residual	ppm	1.15	0.59 to 1.15	4	4	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorite	ppm	0.32	0.11 to 0.32	1	0.8	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	44.5	N/D to 44.5	80	0	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	8.8	N/D to 8.8	60	0	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Perchlorate	ppb	0.28	N/A	2	NONE	NO	2017	Rocket propellant, fireworks, blasting agents
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	0.04 (+-0.6)	N/A	15	0	NO	2014 ³	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	pCi/L	-0.2(+0.6)	N/A	5	0	NO	2014 ³	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	0 of 52 ¹	N/D to 0.048	1.3 (Action Level)	1.3	NO	2015 ³	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
		0.048 ²						
Lead	ppb	0 of 52 ¹	N/D to 0.001	15 (Action Level)	0	NO	2015 ³	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
		0.001 ²						
Chloroform	ppb	24.5	N/D to 24.5	NO MCL	NONE	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	2.5	N/D to 2.5	NO MCL	NONE	NO	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sodium	ppm	28.6	N/A	NO MCL	NONE	NO	2017	Erosion of natural deposits, road salt
DEFINITIONS:								
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.								
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.								
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant 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 below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.								
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.								
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.								
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit measures the characteristic or property of water that causes it to scatter or absorb light. This is usually caused by very small particulate matter suspended in the water.								
ppm - One part per million. ppb - One part per billion N/D - none detected N/A not applicable								
₁ # of samples above AL ² result of 90th % ³ most recent available results NB - New Boston Wellfield TWF - Tyngsboro Wellfield								
US EPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects.								
EPA considers total coliforms a useful indicator of other pathogens for drinking water. Total coliforms are used to determine the adequacy of water treatment and the integrity of the distribution system.								
Results represent water pumped from Dracut Water Supply District (DWSD) wells.					Results represent water purchased from City of Lowell. Please visit https://www.lowellma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=47 for Lowell Water Quality Reports.			