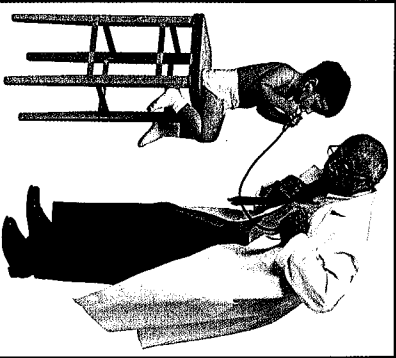


Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who

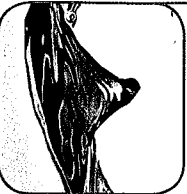


have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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SWAP

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program, established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources; assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and publicize the results to provide support for improved protection. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to the Medfield Water System using the information collected during the water system assessment by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department and online at [www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3175000.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3175000.pdf). For more information, contact Mary Luciano at (508) 359-8505, ext. 601.



Town of Medfield  
459 Main Street  
Medfield, MA 02052

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MA1441

ANNUAL  
WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT

Water testing performed in 2005

Proudly Presented By:  
TOWN OF MEDFIELD

PWS ID#: MA3175000

A large, detailed black and white photograph of water splashing, with many droplets and bubbles visible, creating a dynamic and textured background for the report cover.

Sampling Results

Our water is tested extensively to ensure that it is safe and healthy. We test for hundreds of potential contaminants in accordance with state and federal standards. Listed below are the only contaminants detected in Medfield's drinking water in 2005. It is important to note that none of these contaminants was detected at levels higher than the state and federal standards for drinking water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Nitrate (ppm)	2005	10	10	2.01	0.05-2.01	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (# of positive samples)	2005	1 positive monthly sample	0	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from 30 homes throughout the service area

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH % TILE)	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2005	1.3	1.3	0.45	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2005	15	0	9	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES<sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ORSG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromoform (ppb)	2005	NA	4.8	ND-4.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2005	NA	1.4	ND-1.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sodium (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	2005	20	37.9	7.35-37.9	Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup> U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards for these substances. Monitoring assists the U.S. EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.  
<sup>2</sup> Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

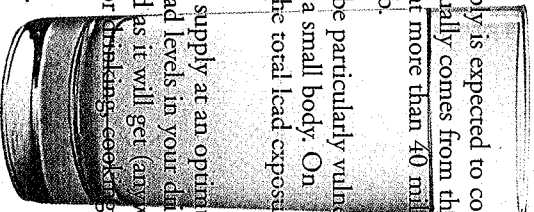
Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a naturally occurring element in our environment. Consequently, our water supply is expected to contain small, undetectable amounts of lead. However, most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your own home, not from the local water supply. The U.S. EPA estimates that more than 40 million U.S. residents use water that can contain lead in excess of the EPA's Action Level of 15 ppb.

Lead in drinking water is a concern because young children, infants and fetuses appear to be particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning. A dose that would have little effect on an adult can have a big effect on a small body. On average, it is estimated that lead in drinking water contributes between 10% and 20% of the total lead exposure in young children.

All kinds of water, however, may have high levels of lead. We maintain our drinking water supply at an optimum pH and mineral content level to help prevent corrosion in your home's pipes. To reduce lead levels in your drinking water you should flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get (anywhere from five seconds to two minutes or longer) and use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

For more information, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Hydrant Flushing Program

This is a two-week process done twice a year. The spring schedule begins in April and the fall schedule begins in October. The purpose of this program is to flush out the iron and manganese sediment that builds up inside the water mains. Although the water is safe, the discoloration and iron particles can be unsightly. The color may vary from a tint of yellow to that of dark tea. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this time.

QA

Should I Put a Brick in My Toilet Tank to Save Water?

Toilet flushing uses a lot of water: about 40% of a household's total water usage. Putting something in the toilet tank that takes up space, like a toilet dam or a water filled jug, is a good idea. But putting a brick in the tank is not a good idea. Bricks tend to crumble and might damage your toilet.

How Much Water is Lost to a Dripping Faucet?

Dripping faucets waste a precious resource – water – and it costs you money. As an example, if you have a faucet that drips 60 times a minute, this adds up to over 3 gallons each day or 1,225 gallons each year.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Is it Safe to Drink Water From a Garden Hose?

No. Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pets' drinking containers. There are hoses made with "food-grade" plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.

Table Definitions

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

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable  
**ND:** Not detected

ORSG (Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline):

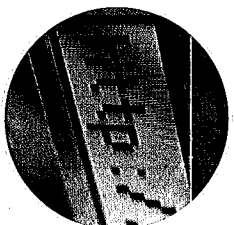
This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/wathome](http://www.epa.gov/wathome)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has a Web site ([www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.



Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

INSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

OUTDOORS:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at [www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep); [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org); [www.nwwa.org](http://www.nwwa.org); [www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org) and [www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach).

## Continuing Our Commitment

The Town of Medfield's Water Department is proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2005. The Town of Medfield is committed to providing customers with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water that exceeds both state and federal standards. To ensure delivery of a quality product, we perform extensive water quality monitoring and continue to make significant improvements to our water system. The town remains vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Safe water is vital to our community and informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. This water quality report, required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, is mailed to you annually and explains where our water comes from, what our tests show about the water, and other relevant information you should know about your drinking water.

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2005. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

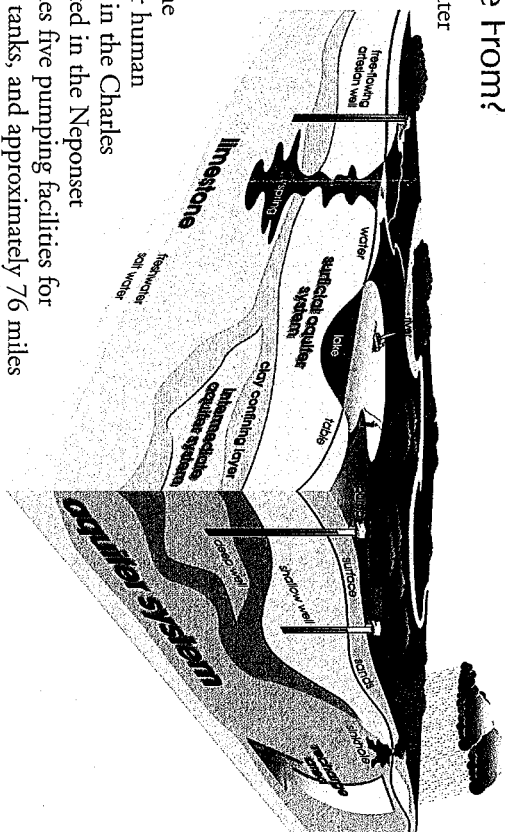
For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Kenneth Feeney, Superintendent of Public Works, at (508) 359-8505, ext. 600.

## Community Participation

The Board of Water and Sewerage meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Medfield Town House, 459 Main Street, Medfield, MA.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The origin of our water is five groundwater supply wells referred to as Wells 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 (Note: Well 5 was not fully constructed due to high levels of iron and manganese in its water). The groundwater supply is not exposed to air and is not subject to direct pollution and contamination like a river or reservoir (surface water). In fact, groundwater is the highest quality of water available to meet the public health demand of water intended for human consumption. Wells 1, 2, and 6 are located in the Charles River Aquifer, while Wells 3 and 4 are located in the Neponset River Aquifer. The water system also includes five pumping facilities for the distribution of water, two water storage tanks, and approximately 76 miles of water main.



## Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of 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, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

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

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.