

WATER CONSERVATION

Water Conservation measures help to ensure adequate water availability for residential and emergency use. When you conserve water you save money, energy and help protect the environment. The high quality water that we need and expect in our homes is not an infinite resource. Please use it wisely.

CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOWS

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water lines and a potential source of pollution or contamination. Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water pipes. Half of the Country's cross connection incidents involve backflow through unprotected garden hoses. Make sure that all outside spigots are protected with a proper vacuum breaker. Never submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pools, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals. For more information on cross connections and backflow contact the Water Department.

Fairhaven Water Department
5 Arsene Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

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PORTUGUESE IMPORTANTE !

O relatorio contem infomacoes importantes sobre a qualidade da agua da comunidade. Traduza-o ou peca ajuda de uma pessoa amiga para ajuda-lo a entender melhor.

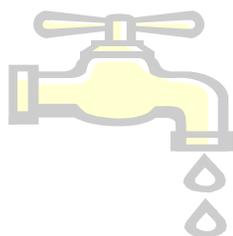
**2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT
FAIRHAVEN WATER DEPARTMENT
PWS ID# 4094000**

THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works 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 and will continue to make significant investments in water treatment, water quality monitoring and upgrades to the water distribution system. We are pleased to report the results of our 2006 testing program to inform you about your drinking water.

The Fairhaven water supply currently consists of three groundwater wells, the Wolf Island Wells, located on Wolf Island Road in Mattapoisett and one groundwater well, the Tinkham Lane Well, located on Tinkham Lane in Mattapoisett. The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to the Fairhaven Water Department using the information collected during the assessment by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The complete SWAP Report is available at the Board of Public Works Building. In addition to our wells we maintain two emergency connections to purchase water from The City of New Bedford when our wells cannot meet usage demands. This water is from a surface source treated at the Quittacas Treatment Plant. The principal storage area is Little Quittacas Pond in Rochester.

In 2006 we did not utilize the emergency connections with the City of New Bedford. A copy of the city of New Bedford 2006 Water Quality Report can be obtained at the Fairhaven Water Department Office located at the Board of Public Works Building at 5 Arsene Street. Please call Mr. Edward Fortin at 508-979-4032 with any questions and comments you have or to find out when Board meetings are held to discuss water quality issues.



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. It 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 sewerage 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, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 Mass DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes 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 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The table below lists any regulated contaminants that were detected in Fairhaven's water quality analysis in 2006 or as otherwise indicated. The table contains the name of each substance; the highest level allowed (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected and the typical source of contamination.

Substance (Contaminant)	90 th percent -tile	Action level	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above action level	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
LEAD (PPB)*	5	15	62	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (PPM)*	0.36	1.3	62	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Substance (Contaminant)	Highest level detected	Range of detection	Highest level allowed (MCL)	Ideal goal (MCLG)	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Tetrachloroethylene (PPB)**	0.5	ND - 0.5	5	0	No	Leaching from PVC pipes
Nitrate (PPM)	0.41	<0.1-0.41	10.0	<10.0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform*** (Highest number of detections per month)	3	0-3	1	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Substance (Contaminant)	Highest level detected	Range of detection	Highest level allowed (MCL)	Ideal goal (MCLG)	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Gross Alpha**** (pCi/L)	1.4	1.4	15	0	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium**** (pCi/L)	0.3	0.0-0.3	5	0	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

* Results are from samples analyzed in 2005.

** Some levels of tetrachloroethylene can be present in the water in locations that are serviced by vinyl lined water mains. These locations are monitored on a yearly basis to insure that any detected levels are below the MCL established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Trace levels of tetrachloroethylene were detected in the following location in 2006: Pine Grove Street 0.5 PPB.

*** Total Coliform – Coliforms are bacteria which 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 in November and this was a warning of potential problems. The water system was flushed and chlorinated and no coliforms were detected in the additional samples that were collected indicating that the problem was alleviated.

**** Results are from samples analyzed in 2003

IMPORTANT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

PPM – One part per million, corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.00

PPB – One part per billion, corresponds to one minute in 2,001 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.00

TT – Treatment Technique: A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

ND – None detected

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

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

FAIRHAVEN'S WATER TREATMENT

To meet state and federal requirements for public drinking water our source water receives treatment before it is supplied to our customers. The chemicals used for treatment are approved by the National Sanitation Foundation. On occasion chlorine is utilized in the treatment process if Coliform bacteria are detected in the Distribution System or if Town wide Hydrant flushing is done. The Wolf Island wells are treated for low levels of iron and manganese. Treatment consists of the addition of metaphosphate to form a chemical reaction known as sequestration that prevents the iron and manganese from forming nuisance particles. We treat all our water for corrosion control by raising the pH with potassium hydroxide to reduce its corrosivity in household plumbing. The potassium hydroxide adjusts the acidity of the water to prevent lead and copper from leaching out. In 2005 one of the 62 homes tested exceeded the action level for lead. Infants and young people are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of the materials used in your plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

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 / Center for Disease Control 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).

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).”