Cross-Connection Contamination

Cross-connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (e.g. boilers), systems containing chemicals (e.g. air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (e.g. main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking line (back-siphonage).

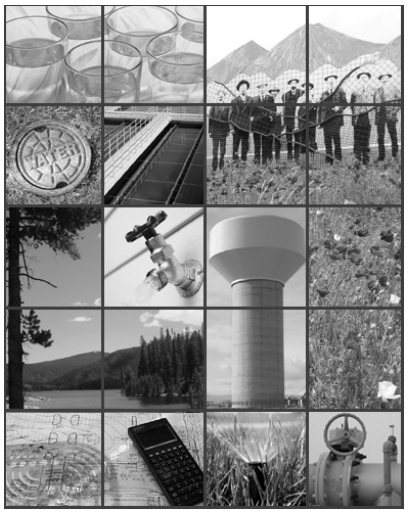
Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals may contaminate garden hoses that are left laying on the ground. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continually jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, visit the Website of the American Backflow Prevention Association (www.abpa.org) for a discussion on current issues.

Town of Williamsburg Water Department
P.O. Box 447
Haydenville, MA 01039

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For the Town of Williamsburg



Town of Williamsburg Water Department
268-8430

Chairman: Walter Kellogg
268-7579

Water Utility ID#
MA 1340000

INTRODUCTION

Our water supply comes from ground water at the South Street pumping station. At our South Street site, we have two wells, treatment facilities, and storage tanks. We treat water with sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to help make the water less corrosive to the distribution system and to the plumbing in the homes. We own all the land in the Zone #1 area and a large portion in Zone #2. This helps to protect your water supply from contaminants.

If you have any health concerns relating to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. For more information about this report, or for any other questions relating to your drinking water, please call Walter Kellogg, Chairman, at (413) 268-7579 or (413) 268-8430.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

This report outlines the processes involved in delivering to you the highest quality drinking water available. In it, we will answer these important questions:

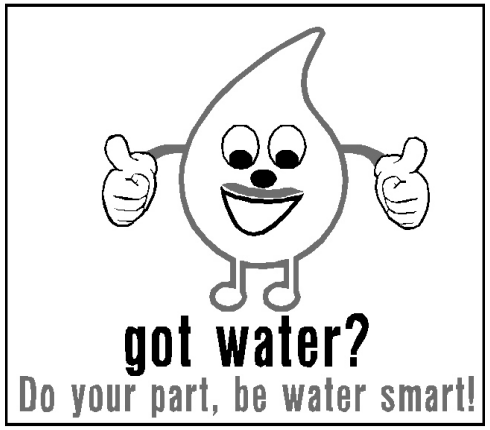
- Where does my drinking water come from?
- What is in my drinking water?

We will also provide information on other available resources that will answer questions about water quality and health defects.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Water & Sewer Department has 5 Elected members and they meet every other Wednesday, except in June, July and August when meetings are held once monthly. All meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the Town Office Building at 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA. You may call the Town Office at (413) 268-8430 for scheduled meeting dates.

Information is also available @ www.burgy.org



Water Conservation Tips

The Town of Williamsburg uses two pumping stations. Conserving water will help reduce the costs associated with water delivery. The water department asks you to conserve water in the following ways.

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances. Replace old fixtures with new ones. This will reduce water consumption by nearly one-half.
- 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, washing, brushing teeth, or cleaning fruits and vegetables.
- Soak dishes before washing. Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- 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 you car. Save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at:
www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html

Special 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 may be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptsporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).