Why do you add chlorine to our water? I don’t like the taste!

Disinfection of surface water supplies such as the Green River and Leyden Glen Reservoir is mandated by federal law and for very good reason.

Undeveloped areas of the world that do not provide chlorination of public water supplies are still plagued with cholera, dysentery, typhoid and other water-borne diseases. Chlorine is the most effective and economical means to achieve disinfection. We do recognize that some of our customers find the taste and odor of chlorine unpleasant. An easy way to remove chlorine from the water is to draw a pitcher (preferably glass) of water and place it, uncovered, in the refrigerator for a few hours. The chlorine will dissipate, thus improving the taste.

Thank you for conserving water!

Water quality questions: Mark Holley, Water Facilities Superintendent 413-772-1539 or markh@greenfield-ma.gov
Leaks, low pressure, meter problems, or billing information: Department of Public Works 413-772-1528 ext 6100 or 6106
Hazardous Waste Disposal: 413-772-1539, Paul Zilinski or paulz@greenfield-ma.gov
City Council: Meets every 3rd Wednesday of each month, at GCC TV.

Questions... call us!

Water Quality Report 2015
Greenfield, Massachusetts
Mayor William Martin

What’s new...

The summer of 2015 was a busy one again! A piece of the transmission main between the Green River pumping Station and Oak Hill Filter Plant was replaced. This was a 1400 foot piece of asbestos water main that was beyond its useful life span. It had begun to have failures and being a critical piece of infrastructure, it was time for replacement! At the well field two chemical pumps used to add chlorine and anti corrosion chemicals to the water were replaced. The new pumps are more energy efficient and meter chemicals much closer than the 1987 vintage ones they replaced. Another piece of infrastructure well beyond its life span! Considering the efficiencies to be gained in electrical savings and much better chemical dosing, it was the obvious choice.

The mechanical and plumbing were done in house with facility staff, while an electrical contractor completed the installation.

Rocky Mountain Tank was cleaned and inspected this summer. During the inspection divers removed “root balls” and repaired leaks in the tank. The repair saved approximately 100,000 gallons of lost water per day. The tank is scheduled for a much needed over haul, it has been in service for a hundred years and until now has needed very little maintenance!

Greenfield Water Supply
Average daily consumption: 1,650,000 gallons

How does lead get into my tap water?

Measures taken during the last two decades have greatly reduced exposures to lead in tap water. These measures include actions taken under the requirements of the 1986 and 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (http://www.epa.gov/sdwa) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Lead and Copper Rule (http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule).

Even so, lead still can be found in some metal water taps, interior water pipes, or pipes connecting a house to the main water pipe in the street. Lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or from the solder that connects pipes. When water sits in leaded pipes for several hours, lead can leach into the water supply.

How do I know if my tap water is contaminated with lead?
The only way to know whether your tap water contains lead is to have it tested. You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. Therefore, you must ask your water provider whether your water has lead in it. For homes served by public water systems, data on lead in tap water may be available on the Internet from your local water authority. If your water provider does not post this information, you should call and find out.

Does a high lead level in my tap water cause health effects?
High levels of lead in tap water can cause health effects if the lead in the water enters the bloodstream and causes an elevated blood lead level. Most studies show that exposure to lead-contaminated water alone would not be likely to elevate blood lead levels in most adults, even exposure to water with a lead content close to the EPA action level for lead of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Risk will vary, however, depending on the individual, the circumstances, and the amount of water consumed. For example, infants who drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water may be at a higher risk because of the large volume of water they consume relative to their body size.

Surface water protection
Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Reports are available at Wastewater Treatment plant or online at http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/wero/swap-wero.pdf

How do you add chlorine to our water? I don’t like the taste!
**Commonly asked questions…**

**What is a Cross Connection? What Can I do about It?**

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home; for instance, when you spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The DPW recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system’s cross connection program, please contact the DPW at 413-772-1539.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- **90th percentile:** Out of ten samples, at least nine were below an accepted level.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLGs are set as close to MCLs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant residual in drinking water 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.
- **Total Human Health Risk:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. TMDLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Point of Compliance:** The point along a water distribution system at which a public water system must contact. This is generally the point of entry of the water into the service area of the water utility. This is the area where the utility can ensure the customer is served with safe drinking water.
- **Point of Use:** The point at which a customer is served with safe drinking water. This is the area where a customer can ensure they are served with safe drinking water.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Stage 3 (UCMR3)**

The Town is mandated by EPA to include the following generic language about the health effects of certain contaminants and drinking water sources:

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Regarding lead… 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. The Greenfield DPW 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. If you would like your water tested for lead at no charge please call the DPW at 413-772-1339. Additional 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/能把/lead