

**2012 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT  
TOWN OF HANOVER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339  
DEP PWSID # 4122000**

This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided in 2012. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

**PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Address: 40 Pond Street Hanover, MA 02339**  
**Contact Person: Neal Merritt, Deputy Superintendent Water Operations**  
**Telephone: 781-826-3189** **Fax: 781-826-8915**  
**Website:**  
<http://www.hanoverdpw.org/>

**Opportunities for Public Participation:**

Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings of the Board of Public Works. The meetings are generally held once a month at the Water Treatment Plant located at 40 Pond St. Please check our web site or contact the D.P.W. office at (781) 826-3189 to determine the next scheduled meeting.

**YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

**Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?**

Source Name	DEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Broadway Wells #1 and #2	4122000-06G & 07G	Groundwater	Broadway
Hanover Street Wells #1 and #2	4122000-03G & 04G	Groundwater	Hanover Street
Pond Street Wells #1, #2, and #3	4122000-01G, 05G, & 08G	Groundwater	Pond Street
Beal Wells #1 and #2	4122000-09G & 10G	Groundwater	Riverside Drive

**Is My Water Treated?**

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove several contaminants.

- We add a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.
- We chemically adjust the water to allow impurities to bond together to settle out of the water.
- We then filter the water to remove any remaining particles from the water.
- We chemically treat the water to a non-corrosive pH to reduce lead and copper concentrations.

**How Are These Sources Protected?**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of these drinking water sources to contamination noting land uses, transportation corridors, hazardous materials storage and use, oil or hazardous material contamination sites, and comprehensive wellhead protection planning, in the water supply protection areas. The Hanover SWAP report is available at our main office at 40 Pond Street and can also be found on the DEP web site at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/source-water-protection-for-drinking-water-supplies.html>

**What is My System's Ranking?**

Hanover's wells are located in aquifers with high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e. clay) that can prevent contaminant migration. As a result, Hanover's sources are considered **highly susceptible** to contamination from a variety of sources such as petroleum products, industrial solvents, fertilizers, and microbial contaminants. Susceptibility is a measure of a water supply's **potential** to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within its recharge area and does not imply poor water quality.

## **What Residents Can Do to Protect Their Drinking Water Supplies:**

- Never dispose of household hazardous waste to your septic system
- Participate in household hazardous waste collection days for used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemicals
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers minimally and properly. More information on environmentally sound lawn care is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/lawns-and-landscapes-in-your-watershed.html>

## **SUBSTANCES FOUND IN 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, 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that 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** 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 Department and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 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).

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 Hanover Department of Public Works 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

### What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the following tables is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables. Please note that the DEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for nitrite to less often than once per year because our sources are not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected were in 2011 and all were found to be free of this contaminant.

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Year Collected	Highest Detected	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	2012	2.21	1.18–2.21	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2012	0.13	---	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2012	1.04	ND – 1.04	10	10	N	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewerage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	2012	0.24	ND – 0.24	2	---	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2012	3.4	ND-3.4	5	0	N	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners and asbestos cement lined pipes
Disinfection By-Products							
Contaminant	Year Collected	Highest Result or RAA*	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2012	4.4	ND – 10.9	60	---	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2012	78.1	31.5–109.0	80	---	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
				MRDL	MRDLG		
Chlorine (ppm)	2012	0.31	0.01 – 1.57	4.0	4.0	N	Water Additive used to control microbes
*RAA = Highest running annual average for four consecutive quarters							
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant	Year Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# Sites Sampled	# Sites Above AL	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2011	5	15	0	30	2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2011	0.51	1.3	1.3	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – 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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.
- ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
- pCi/l** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ND** = Not Detected

**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Contaminant	Year Collected	Average Result	Range Detected	SMCL	ORS	Possible Sources of Contamination
Sodium (ppm)	2012	43.7	34.9 – 52.5	---	20	Runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process
Chloroform (ppb)	2012	10.8	0.5 – 27.7	---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2012	5.0	2.0 – 7.3	---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	2012	3.2	1.0 – 4.3	---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	2012	1.6	ND – 4.0	---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sulfate (ppm)	2011	44.2	21.6 – 89.5	250	---	Natural Sources
Contaminant	Year Collected	Average Result	Range Detected	SMCL	Health Advisory	Possible Sources of Contamination
Manganese (ppb)	2011	52.5	31 - 74	50	300	Erosion of natural deposits

1. **Secondary Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
2. **ORS:** The MassDEP Office of Research and Standards.

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

**Lead:** Infants and young children 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 materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water to reduce lead content. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791.

**Sodium:** The MassDEP, Drinking Water Program (DWP), has established a sodium guideline of 20 mg/L. This concentration is in line with the limit applied to bottled water by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for low sodium water. The guideline represents a level of sodium in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. Additional information on sodium in drinking water can be found at [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#15](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#15)

**Manganese:** Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil and groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. The EPA and DEP have set an aesthetics-based Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese of 50 parts per billion, and a health advisory level of 300 ppb. 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, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ppb and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ppb, 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 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Check faucets and toilets for leaks.
- Install low - flow aerators on bathroom and kitchen faucets.
- Install low –flow showerheads.
- Run dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full.
- Water in the early morning or evening.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, walks and patios.
- Keep grass at least three inches high to shade roots and hold moisture.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION

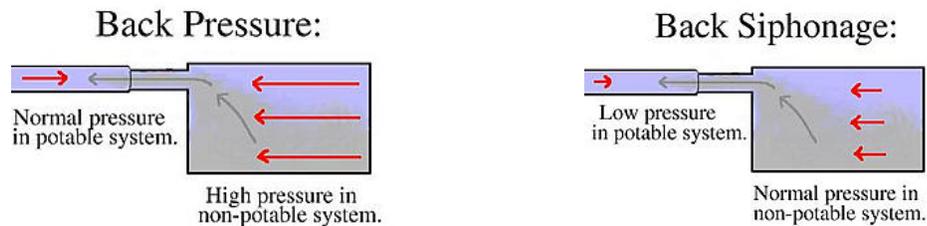
The Hanover Water Department makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe, and free of contamination. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? There is still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection.

### What is a cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipments that allow the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

### What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system, such as a boiler or air-conditioning, is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (backpressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backward inside the water distribution system (backsiphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of. And every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent them.



### What you can do to help prevent a cross-connection

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact, over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses.

There are very simple steps that you, as a drinking water user, can take to prevent such hazards:

- **Never** submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- **Never** attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker on every threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with a backflow preventer.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact this office at 781-826-3189 to schedule a cross-connection survey.

The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, requires all public water systems to have an approved and fully implemented Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP). The Hanover Water Department is working diligently to protect the public health of its drinking water customers from the hazards caused by unprotected cross-connections. We are doing this through the implementation of our cross-connection survey program, elimination or proper protection of all identified cross-connections, the registration of all cross-connections protected by reduced pressure backflow preventers (RPBPs) or double check valve assemblies (DCVAs), and the implementation of a testing program for all RPBPs and DCVAs.

## GREENSCAPES

The Town of Hanover Department of Public Works has partnered with the North and South Rivers Watershed Association's Greenscapes Program. The Greenscapes Program provides tips for low-maintenance landscape and free workshops that will save you money and help protect the environment by reducing the need for water and chemicals. You can learn more about the Greenscapes Program by logging onto [www.nsrwa.org/index.html](http://www.nsrwa.org/index.html).