

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For
HAMILTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MASSDEP PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 3119000

This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided to you last year. 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 providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies

1. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

The public water supply for the Town of Hamilton is managed by the Department of Public Works located at: Town Hall, 2nd floor, 577 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA 01936. Phone number: (978) 626-5226, Fax number: (978) 468-5582, (Emergency only: (978) 468-1212. Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Tuesday 8:00am to 6:30 pm, and Friday 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Town’s website is: www.hamiltonma.gov

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator who oversees the routine operation of our system. In November 2018, DEP performed a Sanitary Survey on our system; no violations were found, and we have addressed any issues that were noted.

Governing Body:

- Town Manager – Joseph J. Domelowicz, Jr.
- Board of Selectmen: Chairman – Shawn Farrell, Darcy Dale, Jamie Knudsen, Rosemary Kennedy, and Bill Olson.
- Director of Public Works & CCR Contact Person: Timothy J. Olson, 978-626-5226
- Personnel: Primary Treatment Plant Operator - David Dolan, Secondary Treatment Plant Operator – Brian Ruane, Distribution Foreman - Jeff Mazzetta, and Office Administrator - Gail Hannable.

Important Phone Numbers:

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health 617-292-5500 Department of Environmental Protection 24 Hours Emergency Line 1-888-304-1133

Town of Hamilton Website: <http://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/water-department>

2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Our drinking water sources include:

- **School St. Well (SSW)**, source number 3119000-02G, located behind the School St. Park. This is an active, year round source.
- **Gordon “Tiny” Thompson Water Filtration Plant (WTP)**, source number 3119000-10, located at the end of Pine Tree Drive. This source is an active, year round source and consists of Idlewood I Wells, Idlewood II Well, Caisson Satellite Well and Plateau Well. Iron and Manganese are filtered out of the water at this location.

How are these sources protected? In 2001 the Mass DEP prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report for the water supply sources serving the Town. The SWAP report assesses the susceptibility of contamination of a public water source. In the SWAP report, the DEP has given the town a susceptibility rating of “high” based upon the information collected during the assessment by the Mass DEP. Some of the key issues identified are: (1) Inappropriate activities in Zone I, (2) Residential land use, (3) Manure storage or spreading and (4) Storm water catch basins within the Zone II. The full SWAP report can be found online at <https://www.mass.gov/source-water-protection#7>

Although our Zone I and Zone II areas (the areas that contribute water to our wells) are fairly well protected by bylaws and regulations, we continue to monitor land use activities such as paddocks, farming and construction storage areas to assure that our groundwater is protected. We also encourage those living in these areas not to dispose of toxins, cleaners or chemicals down their plumbing drains and to minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Even organic fertilizers have nitrates in them which can affect water quality. You should also monitor fuel and heating oil storage tanks carefully to assure they are not leaking.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of water delivered to you all sources are treated with chlorine for disinfection, fluoride for dental health and hygiene, and phosphates as a metal sequestering agent to assure water quality leaving the stations. Our water is also chemically treated to remove iron and manganese. The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by the Town and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water quality and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

We also have interconnections with the Towns of Ipswich at Waldingfield Road, Essex at Essex Street, Wenham at Woodbury Street and at Highland Street, in the event of an emergency situation.

3. EDUCATIONAL STATEMENTS

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 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 at 1-800-426-4791

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 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, which may come from sewage 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, and 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 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.

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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Hamilton 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. 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/safewater/lead>

4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) – The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

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 expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Variations and Exceptions – State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

5. WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

DEFINITIONS OF UNITS OF MEASURE

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nonograms per liter (ng/L)

ND = Not Detected

N/A = Not Applicable

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

What does this data represent?

The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All results shown were from samples collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables. Only the detected contaminants are shown.

Water Quality Summary: Listed below are contaminants detected in Hamilton's drinking water in 2021. *The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.* Not listed are contaminants for which we tested but were not detected.

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM HAMILTON'S WATER SYSTEM

Substance	Collection	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Barium (ppm)	Annual	0.156	0.019-0.156	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Annual	0.67	0.45-0.67	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories *Fluoride has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm to better protect human health.
Nitrate (ppm)	Quarterly	7.05	0.35-7.05	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	Annual	0.12	0.10-0.12	2	-	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Substance	Collection	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Tetrachloroethylene PCE (ppb)	Annual	0.88	ND – 0.88	5	0	N	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, AC pipe

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Substance	Collection	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	Quarterly	17	7.5-17	N/A	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	Quarterly	69	0.63-69	N/A	70	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	Quarterly	2.8	1.6-2.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	Quarterly	14	5.6-14	N/A	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	Quarterly	30	20-30	N/A	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sodium (ppm)	Annual	86.3	37.5-86.3	N/A	20 (ORSG)	N/A	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

	Collection	Highest LRAA ¹	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) Goodhue Street	Quarterly	36	28-43	60	N/A	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) Air Force Property	Quarterly	17	0	60	N/A	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethane (TTHMs) (ppb) Goodhue Street	Quarterly	66	54-83	80	N/A	Y ²	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethane (TTHMs) (ppb) Air Force Property	Quarterly	57	47-69	80	N/A	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

1 Reported LRAA for Q1-3 are based on results from previous quarters in 2020 and not reported on this table

2 Received one TTHM value at Goodhue Street over the MCL. The town increased the system flushing to help increase the water turnover in the system.

DISINFECTANTS							
Substance	Units	Highest Monthly Average	Range Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Free Chlorine (ppm)	Daily	0.31	0.12-0.31	4	4	N	Water additive to inactivate harmful organisms

PFAS						
Substance	Collection	Detect Result or Range	Highest Quarterly Average	MCL	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
PFAS6 (ppt) Water Treatment Plant	Quarterly	4.9	4.9	20	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
PFAS6 (ppt) School Street Well	Quarterly	12-13	13	20	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Substance	Collection	Highest Level Detected	Range	Avg. Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Sources of Contamination
Manganese (ppb)	Daily	46	6-46	21	50	300	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	Daily	90	0-90	20	300	-	Natural sources and corroding distribution and household pipes
pH	Daily	7.6	6.8-7.3	7.3	6.5-8.5	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM YOUR FAUCETS

BACTERIA AND MICROBIOLOGY							
Substance	Collection	Highest Level Detected	Range Detected	Highest Level Allowed MCL	Ideal Goals MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly	1	1	1	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E.coli	Monthly	0	0	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

LEAD AND COPPER							
Substance	Collection	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above the Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	Annual	1.13	1.3	1.3	20	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppm)	Annual	0.0024	0.015	0	20	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Educational Information

- **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 Town of Hamilton Water Department 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 at 800-426-4791. or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>
- **Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action levels for long periods of time could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their physician.
- **Sodium:** Is a naturally occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure, kidney failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20 mg/L for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For additional information, contact your health care provider, your local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 617-624-5757.
- **Manganese:** Manganese in drinking water 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP have set and an aesthetics-based Secondary Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese at 50 micrograms per Liter (ug/L), or 50 parts per billion (ppb), and health advisory levels. In addition, EPA and MassDEP have also established public health advisory levels. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ug/L, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, EPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ug/L and over the short term, EPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ug/L, 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 ug/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for longer than 10 days.
- **Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

During the Calendar Year 2021 we found three (3) tests at a higher level than the EPA allows. These exceedances did not trigger necessary public notification and the Hamilton Water Department was able to control and rectify within 24 hours after receiving the test results from the laboratory. The exceedances are detailed below in the Violations Section.

Monitoring Waivers

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants at the School Street Well because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants was taken during the second quarter of calendar year 2015 and was found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

Violations

The three exceedances mentioned above are as follows.

Exceedance #1 – Quarter 4 Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) at the Goodhue Street Testing site – Value was 83 and MCL is 80. The Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) following the Q4 exceedance was 66 which is below the MCL. TTHM are by-products of the Town's disinfection techniques at the Hamilton Water Treatment Plant. The Town uses chlorine to disinfect and when combined with natural organics and with water age, TTHMs are formed in the system. Hamilton Water Department received the testing results and immediately started to increase the system flushing to decrease the water age in this part of the water system.

Exceedance #2 – In July 2021, at the American Legion Building testing site, the Hamilton Water Department received a positive Coliform negative E.Coli result. Hamilton retested the sample site the same day after receiving the laboratory results and the test came back negative. The Hamilton Water Department has the opinion that there was a positive coliform result due to the American Legion having been closed due to the pandemic and the water in the existing piping was stagnant.

Exceedance #3 – There was one exceedance during the August 2021 copper testing. After receiving the copper exceedance test result the Hamilton Water Department notified the owner of said property. The Owner had informed the Hamilton Water Department they had been out of town for several months and took the sample on their return at a location that had not been recently used. Hamilton Water Department directed the owner to flush their interior piping. A few days later a new sample was drawn, tested, and results came back under the Action Level.

7. 2021 WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS.

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) GAC Filtration Project

Based on the findings of the final treatment evaluation report dated July 17, 2020 as completed by Dewberry Engineers Inc., the most favorable strategy recommended to mitigate TTHM formation at the existing Idlewood water treatment plant was to reduce levels of TOCs within the Idlewood wells through a new GAC adsorption system. This new system will be installed at the head of the plant to remove as much TOCs from the Idlewood wells as possible prior to being treated for iron and manganese removal. Upon obtaining BOS approval, the Town contracted the services of Dewberry Engineers Inc. for the design and construction of the new GAC adsorption system in August 2020. The final design for the new facility including the GAC adsorption system, pre-engineered metal building, package booster pump system, process work and

related systems was completed in March 2021. The final design documents were submitted to MassDEP for approval to construct on March 19, 2021 and the project was advertised for bid on May 6th, 2021. Bids were received on June 10th, 2021. Due to only receiving one bid which was more than what the Town had appropriated for the project, it was decided to re-bid the project this Fall. The town solicited bids on October 21st, 2021 and received 3 bids. The low bidder, D&C Construction Corporation was issued a Notice of Award for the project in the amount of \$3,098,000 and plans to begin the construction in the spring of 2022.

Idlewood Wellfield Redevelopments – Caisson Satellite Well

The Town of Hamilton engaged contractor services for the redevelopment of the Caisson Satellite Well in 2021. This well had stopped production due to the heavy iron and manganese concentrations negatively impacting the pumping and withdrawal. Following the redevelopment, the well operation returned to normal. Evidence showed that more frequent redevelopment of Hamilton wells may be necessary to maintain successful operation and optimum withdrawal.

AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessment

Per the EPA, under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, small community water systems serving a population between 3,300 and 50,000 such as Hamilton were required to assess the risks and resilience of its critical water system assets to malevolent acts and natural hazards by June 30, 2021. The Town completed the EPA-provided checklist which included the following 10 asset categories: 1) physical barriers 2) source water 3) pipes and constructed conveyances 4) pretreatment and treatment 5) storage and distribution facilities 6) electronic, computer or other automated systems 7) monitoring practices 8) financial infrastructure 9) the use, storage and handling of chemicals and 10) the operation and maintenance of the system. The completed checklist was certified as required with the EPA on June 28th, 2021. This checklist is required to be reviewed and revised as needed every five years.

*** CONSERVATION INFORMATION ***

Annual Seasonal Conservation

The Hamilton Department of Public Works would like to remind residents that we have an **annual** Outdoor Water Use By-Law that does not allow mechanical watering of lawns between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. from May 1st to September 30th of each year. The most wasteful act of water use is over watering your lawn at night or watering during the heat of the day. Up to 80% of the water used during the day is evaporated which means 80 cents on every dollar you spend watering is wasted along with the same outcome with over-watering at night.

*** CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PLAN ***

Cross-Connection Control

The purpose of a Cross-Connection Control Program is to protect the public potable water supply; to promote the elimination or control of existing cross-connections between potable water systems and non-potable systems; and to provide for the maintenance of a continuing program of cross-connection control which will effectively prevent the possible contamination or pollution of all potable water systems by cross-connection. Cross-connection 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 (boilers), systems containing chemicals (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 (main breaks, heavy water demand, system flushing) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back-siphonage).

The Hamilton Water Department is responsible for the protection of the public potable water distribution system from contamination or pollution due to the backflow or back-siphoning of contaminants or pollutants. If, as a result of a survey of the premises, the Hamilton Water Department determines that an approved backflow prevention device is required at the town's water service connection or as in-plant protection on any customer's premises, the Hamilton Water Department, or its designated agent, shall issue a cross-connection violation letter to said customer to install approved backflow prevention devices. The customer shall, within a time frame determined by the Hamilton Water Department, install such approved device or devices, and failure or refusal or inability on the part of the customer to install said device or devices within the specified time frame shall constitute grounds for discontinuing water service to the premises until such device or devices have been properly installed to the Hamilton Water Department satisfaction.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test each backflow preventer twice per year to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

This authority is provided for in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (Public Law 93-523); the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drinking Water regulation, 310 CMR 22.22; the Acts of 1916, Chapter 309, Section 15, the Acts of 1979, Chapter 443, Section 2, and the Town of Hamilton Policy #2009-001.

For more information, visit the website of the [American Backflow Prevention Association](http://www.backflow.com) for a discussion on current issues.