**Terms to Remember**

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** This is the highest level of contaminant in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goals or MCLG’s:** These goals are set at levels which are below where there is no known health risk. MCLG’s are considered a margin of safety (Safety Net).

**Micrograms/Liter or ug/l:** = parts per billion (Comparison)

**Milligrams/Liter or mg/l:** = parts per million (Comparison)

**Picocuries/Liter or pCi/l:** = A measure of radioactivity

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**Tips For Saving Water**

Understanding where you use water most can provide hints on where the most water can be conserved. Here are a few water conservation tips:

- Don’t use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Take shorter showers. A quick shower rather than a bath can save an average of 20 gallons of water. A three to five minute shower is recommended.
- Garbage disposals use approximately 11.5 gallons of water per day. Try composting organic wastes instead.
- Use dishwasher and washer only when you have full loads.
- Direct downsprouts and other runoff towards shrubs, trees and gardens.

Conservation Kits are available for free at the Water Department office and the Billing Clerk’s office.

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**2008 Water Quality Testing Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
<th>HIGHEST DETECT VALUE</th>
<th>RANGE DETECTED</th>
<th>AVERAGE DETECT</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>VIOLATION (Y/N)</th>
<th>POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>5.6ug/L</td>
<td>0.0 - 5.6ug/L</td>
<td>2.9ug/L</td>
<td>15ug/L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Corrosion of lead solder in household plumbing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>0.02mg/L</td>
<td>0.017 - 0.2mg/L</td>
<td>1.4mg/L</td>
<td>1.3mg/L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems; emission of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

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**Lead and Copper Detections**

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. Orange 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 or at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

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**Numbers to Remember**

- **Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** 1-800-426-4791
- **State Department of Environmental Protection:** 1-413-784-1100
- **Orange Water Department:**
  - **Superintendent of Water:** 978-544-1115
  - **Billing Questions:** 978-544-1100 x102
  - **After Hours Cell Phone:** 978-501-2062

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**The Orange Water Department**

**has 3 sources of water consisting of 3 ground wells.**

- **Well #1** is located off from Holtsville Rd. and is used for emergency use only.
- **Well #2** is located off from West River St.
- **Well #3** is located off from Daniel Shays Highway (Route 202).

We also have an interconnection with the Town of Athol on Brookside Rd.

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**Construction on Tap 2009**

Summit Street Water Main Improvement Project:

A new 8” water main, 2 new hydrants and new house services to the property line will be installed as part of a CDBG Project.

**Note:** Construction causes delays and some inconvenience, your patience is greatly appreciated.

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**Our list of detections follows in the chart on the other side.**
Levels of Some Contaminants

“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 potential sources of contamination in the source water area include: Fertilizers & Pesticides, Underground Storage Tanks, Transportation Corridors & Septic Systems. The DEP has assessed our water system as having a high susceptibility to potential contamination from Fertilizers & Pesticides and Underground Storage Tanks. A copy of the Source Water Assessment Report may be obtained by calling the Orange Water Department or online at http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm

Protecting Your Home Against Cross-Connections

What is a “cross-connection”?
A cross-connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement which can allow your drinking water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

What is “backflow”?
It’s just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to a change in pressures, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connections.

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.

For Your Information

Due to a 400% increase in the cost of Potassium Hydroxide in the last 2 years and a 55% increase in electricity costs in the last year there will be a water rate increase beginning July 1st.

In order to save money on overtime expenses, the Water Dept. will be flushing most of the hydrants in town during normal working hours the last week in April & the first week in May.

For more information on cross-connection control and backflow prevention for your home or business, please contact the Orange Water Department at 978-544-1115.