

2022 Drinking Water Quality Report



Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board: PWS ID 3030001

Salem Water Department: PWS ID 3258000

Beverly Water Department: PWS ID 3030000

Distributed June 2023



To Our Customers,

2022 was an exciting and challenging year for the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board (the Board). Despite the lack of rain in 2022, the Board had no issues providing high-quality drinking water to its customers because of its well-planned and robust water supply sources. Great progress was made with the new multiphased 25-year capital sustainability and best management practices programs during the year. These efforts are being undertaken to prepare the Board for future generations to ensure the Board succeeds in its mission to deliver a high quality, reliable, and resilient water supply to our customers. This sustainability program will require careful and strategic planning, along with significant public support and funding. It is our vision to be a world-class water utility driven by teamwork and operational excellence.

This report describes the Board's raw water sources, drinking water treatment process, and water quality performance data for 2022. As part of our ongoing commitment to increase public communication, awareness, and transparency, this report includes information beyond the minimum federal requirements related to your drinking water for the protection and sustainability of this most valuable resource.

It has been a great pleasure once again to serve you all in 2022.

Sincerely,

Alan F. Taubert Jr., PE, CEM, Executive Director
Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board

**We're here to answer
your questions.**

Who do I contact with my water quality questions?
Brad Perron, Deputy Director for the Board
(978) 922-2600

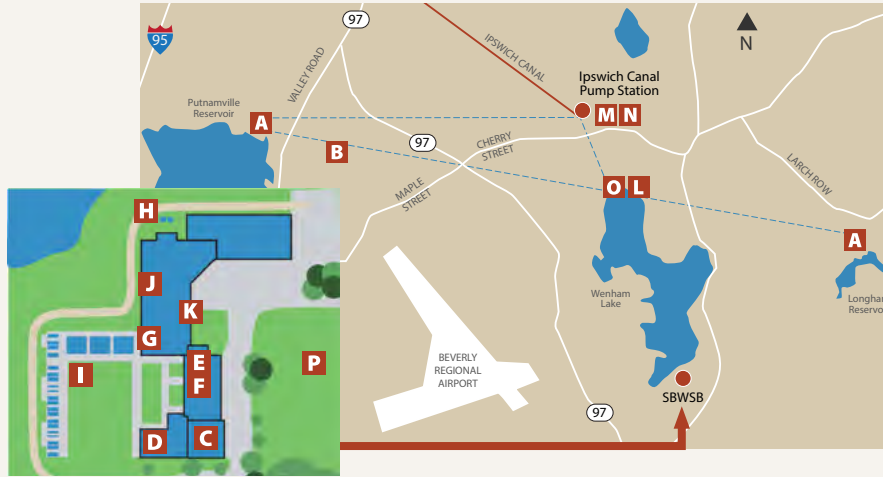
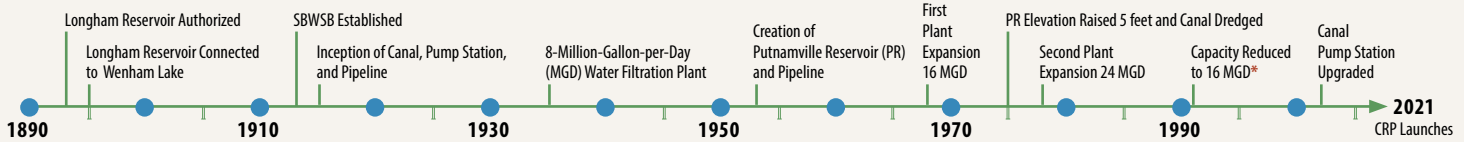
Who do I contact in my city with water distribution questions?

Beverly Water Department: (978) 921-6000, ext. 2358
Salem Water Department: (978) 745-9595, ext. 5673

Sustainability Program

The rich history of the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board (SBWSB), from the turn of the century to the present day, underscores the Board's mission to deliver a high-quality, reliable, and resilient water supply to our customers. In 2021 our Capital Renewal Program (CRP)

launched a multiphase long-term plan to build a sustainable resource of drinking water for the communities of Salem and Beverly. Our current projects (listing of A-P projects below) will build the foundation for our 25-year Capital Sustainability Master Plan (CSMP).



Current Projects Include the Following:

- A. Putnamville and Longham Gatehouse Improvements
- B. Water Supply Transmission Pipeline Condition Assessments
- C. Replace Backwash Valve, Meter, and Piping
- D. Laboratory Roof Replacement
- E. Replace Piping in Filter Pipe Gallery
- F. New Filter Media, Surface Wash Pipes and Agitators, and Paint Filter Bays
- G. Temperature Control for the Main Motor Control Center Room
- H. Repair 30-inch Backwash Drain Valve
- I. Evaluate Sedimentation Basin Equipment and Alternatives Process
- J. Fluoride Tank Containment
- K. Process Water Pump System Review
- L. Pipeline Access for Robot/Condition Assessment
- M. Canal Pump Station Suction
- N. Canal Pump Station Redundant Pump
- O. Canal Pipeline Outlet Rehabilitation
- P. Inspection and Cleaning of Finished Water Reservoir

*To comply with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) revision of Turbidity Standards, 1991.

How Is Your Water Purified?

The source waters of the Board's reservoir system undergo extensive treatment at the water treatment plant on the shores of Wenham Lake Reservoir in Beverly before drinking water is delivered to your home or business. The water is treated to exceed all state and federal drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The plant removes naturally occurring impurities from the source water as required by federal regulations and good public health practices.

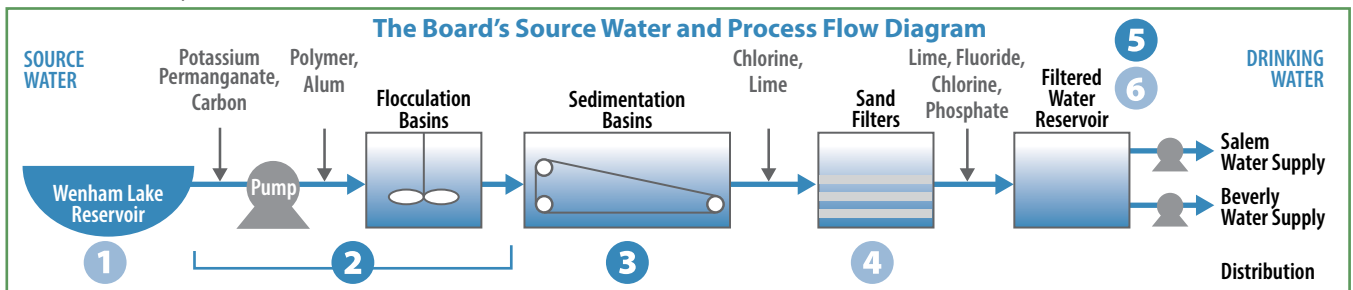
1 Source Water: Raw water for the water treatment plant is drawn from Wenham Lake Reservoir.

2 and 3 Pretreatment: The first step in the treatment process combines preoxidation with potassium permanganate, adsorption with carbon and coagulation with alum and polymer, followed by gravity settling to remove manganese, natural color, taste and odor, and sediment and particles.

4 Filtration: The water passes through sand and anthracite media to remove organic compounds. Filtration also acts as a "polishing step" to remove additional particles, color, and bacteria.

5 Disinfection: Sodium hypochlorite is used to provide disinfection of the filtered water to kill bacteria and viruses and maintain a protective residual throughout the distribution system.

6 Post treatment: Fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay/cavities. To maintain corrosion control in the distribution pipes, the Board adjusts the pH and uses a phosphate additive that is designed to optimize corrosion control throughout the distribution system and minimize dissolved lead in the pipes and household plumbing. To ensure the highest quality water, the Board continuously monitors the effectiveness of the treatment process and makes necessary adjustments to the treatment to maintain water quality.



Where Does Your Water Come From?

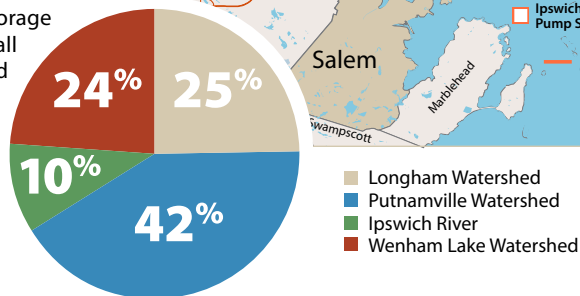
The Board provides potable water to the cities of Salem and Beverly for drinking, sanitation, and fire protection. The Board maintains the source waters, treats the water at the Arlington Avenue water treatment plant located in North Beverly, and delivers water to the individual Salem and Beverly pumping stations. These pumping stations deliver drinking water to your home in pipes owned and maintained by each city water department.

Salem and Beverly use over 3 billion gallons of drinking water each year. This water is drawn from the Ipswich River and three reservoirs: Wenham Lake, Putnamville, and Longham Reservoirs.

Beverly's water mains have interconnections with Salem, Wenham, Danvers, and Manchester-by-the-Sea. Salem's water mains

have interconnections with Beverly, Marblehead, and Peabody.

The Board recognizes the importance of storing high winter and spring flows of the Ipswich River for use in summer when river flows are naturally low. Between December 1 and May 31, when there is excess water in the river, water is pumped to the Putnamville Reservoir and/or Wenham Lake Reservoir for storage and use during summer and fall each year. Water is not pumped from the Ipswich River from June 1 through November 30. Similarly, Longham Reservoir augments Wenham Lake Reservoir.



Important Information from EPA & MassDEP about Sources of Drinking Water and Drinking Water Contaminants

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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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.

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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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: 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 Board is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but it 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects:

**CALL the EPA's
Safe Drinking Water
HOTLINE 800 426 4791**

Massachusetts Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination from land uses and activities within the recharge area of Salem and Beverly's water supply. The water supply for these cities consists of surface water from Wenham Lake (Source ID #3030001-01S), Longham Reservoir (Source ID #3030001-02S), Putnamville Reservoir (Source ID #3030001-03S), and the Ipswich River (Source ID #3030001-04S).

MassDEP assigned a susceptibility rating of "high" to this system using the information collected during their assessment. A high ranking is given to any water supply that has at least one high threat within the water supply protection area. Because there are 17 potential high-threat land uses within the protection area, the Salem and Beverly water supply must be assigned a high susceptibility ranking. The potential contaminant sources within the protection area are manure storage or spreading, pesticide storage or use,

airports, body shops, gas stations, service stations/auto repair shops, bus and truck terminals, dry cleaners, photo processors, repair shops (e.g., engine, appliance), hazardous materials storage, machine/metalworking shops, hazardous waste facilities, large quantity hazardous waste generators, landfills and dumps, military facilities (past and present), former NIKE missile sites, and underground storage tanks. This ranking does not imply that the cities have poor water quality or will have poor water quality in the future. It only draws attention to various activities within the watershed that may be potential sources of contamination.

The SWAP then assesses what the water supplier is doing to prevent contamination and recommends other measures that can be taken to further protect the sources. Some source protection measures the Board have already implemented include reviewing the development of plans in the City of Beverly

and the Towns of Wenham and Topsfield, conducting stream monitoring throughout the watersheds, and managing geese on Wenham Lake.



For more information, the complete SWAP report is available at the Board and on line:

www.mass.gov/doc/salem-beverly-water-supply-bd-swap-report/download.

You can also call the Board at (978) 922-2600.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

The EPA Phase II Stormwater regulations require all communities with populations under 100,000 to implement control measures aimed at reducing water pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is a major component of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. According to the EPA, NPS pollution constitutes the nation's largest source of water quality problems. NPS pollution occurs when runoff (rainwater or snowmelt) moves over the land picking up sediments and contaminants and then depositing them into lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. Overland flow picks up pollutants from driveways, crops, industrial sites, or malfunctioning septic systems before discharging into the river or storm drain.



NPS pollution can lead to beach closures, fish kills, habitat destruction, and unsafe drinking water. Unlike point sources (e.g., discharge pipes from facilities), nonpoint sources are diffuse, which makes them difficult to trace and control. The Board provides robust watershed protection (including limiting access to the public) to control NPS pollution and the source of drinking water for their customers.

Household contributors to NPS pollution include improperly disposed pet waste, lawn fertilizer, paints, and motor oil. Automobiles, factories, and wood stoves emit airborne contaminants that return to the earth in the form of rain or snow. The amount of these contaminants that reach water sources is increased by impermeable surfaces such as roofs and pavements, which keep the soils from naturally filtering stormwater.

The Cities of Salem and Beverly have implemented Stormwater Management Plans (SWMP) designed to reduce stormwater runoff pollution and protect your source and surface waters. Involving the public through education and participation are required control measures for the SWMP.

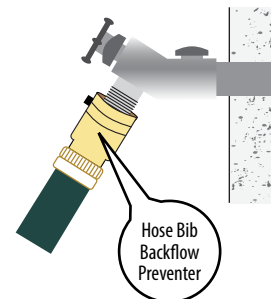
Protect Your Drinking Water at Home!

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, to spray fertilizer on your lawn, you hook your hose up to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (for example, because of fire hydrant use in the city) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Over half of cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses.

For additional information on cross connections and the status of our program, please contact your city's Water Department:

Salem:
(978) 745-9595,
ext. 5673

Beverly: (978) 921-6000, ext. 2358



REGULATED COMPOUNDS					
Compound	Highest Level Found	Range of Detections (low–high)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL or MRDL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Possible Source
Barium	0.023 ppm	Single Sample	2 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	0.67 ppm ^[1]	ND – 2.08 ppm ^[2]	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water disinfectant
Copper ^[3, 4]	Both: 0.14 ppm Salem: 0.16 ppm Beverly: 0.09 ppm	0.011 – 0.24 ppm 0.016 – 0.24 ppm 0.011 – 0.16 ppm	AL = 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride ^[5]	0.82 ppm	0.55 – 0.82 ppm	4 ppm ^[5]	4 ppm	Added to water to promote strong teeth
Lead ^[3, 4]	Both: 2.5 ppb Salem: 2.1 ppb Beverly: 2.5 ppb	ND – 25.6 ppb ND – 25.6 ppb ND – 9.1 ppb	AL = 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate as Nitrogen	0.04 ppm	Single Sample	10 ppm	10 ppm	Naturally present in the environment
PFAS6 ^[6]	9 ppt	5 – 9 ppt	20 ppt		‡ 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 firefighting foams.
Total Haloacetic Acids	41 ppb ^[1]	7 – 48 ppb ^[2]	60 ppb ^[7]	0 ppb	Byproduct of water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	71 ppb ^[1]	25 – 100 ppb ^[2]	80 ppb ^[7]	0 ppb	Byproduct of water disinfection
Turbidity ^[8]	0.18 NTU	0.01 – 0.18 NTU	TT = 0.3 NTU	N/A	Suspended matter from soil runoff

SECONDARY/GUIDELINE CONTAMINANTS					
Compound	Highest Level Found	Range of Detections (low–high)	Highest Guidance Level (SMCL or ORSG)	Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Possible Source
Chloroform	22.78 ppb	Single Sample	70 ppb	–	Byproduct of water disinfection
Manganese ^[9]	12 ppb	Single Sample	50 ppb	–	Naturally occurring mineral
Sodium ^[10]	45.1 ppm	Single Sample	20 ppm	–	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents.
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	Compound	Average	Range of Detections (low–high)		Possible Sources
	PFHxA	3.8 ppt	3.6 – 4.2 ppt		Refer to ‡ above
	PFBS	2.1 ppt	2.0 – 2.2 ppt		Refer to ‡ above

Notes

- ^[1] Highest level detected is based on a running monthly or quarterly average of samples.
- ^[2] Highest value in range is based on individual samples, rather than averages.
- ^[3] The Action Level (AL) and the highest level found are based on the 90th percentile of the samples. The range represents all individual samples.
- ^[4] Data is from most recent sampling occurrence in 2020.
- ^[5] Fluoride also has an SMCL of 2.0 ppm.
- ^[6] PFAS6 are comprised of six compounds: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA).
- ^[7] Highest level allowed (MCL) for this substance is based on the average of four quarterly samples.
- ^[8] All samples met the TT requirement.
- ^[9] EPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects and a 1 day and 10-day HA of 1,000 ppb for acute exposure.
- ^[10] The MassDEP Office of Research and Standards has set a guideline concentration of 20 ppm for sodium. Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart disease, should be aware of the sodium levels if exposures are being carefully controlled.

Terms and Abbreviations

- AL: Action Level** – The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level** – 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.
- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** – 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.
- MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the level of disinfectants required to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A: Not Available** – An ideal goal has not been established by EPA or MassDEP for this compound.
- ND: Not Detected**

- NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit** – A measure of the turbidity (or clarity) of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG):** Guidance values developed by MassDEP ORS in absence of any other federal standards or guidance.
- ppb: Parts per Billion or Micrograms per Liter** – (µg/L). One part per billion is the equivalent of \$1 in \$1,000,000,000.
- ppm: Parts per Million or Milligrams per Liter** – (mg/L). One part per million is the equivalent of \$1 in \$1,000,000.
- ppt: Parts per Trillion or Nanograms per Liter** – (ng/L). One part per trillion is the equivalent of \$1 in \$1,000,000,000,000.
- SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level** – Concentration limit for a contaminant that may have aesthetic effects such as taste, odor, or staining.
- TT: Treatment Technique** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Turbidity is a measure of treatment performance and is regulated as a treatment technique. A total of 95% of our turbidity readings each month must be below 0.3 NTU.
- 90th Percentile:** Nine out of every 10 homes were at or below this level.

MassDEP Notification: We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis and report the results to MassDEP. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. For the fourth quarter of 2022, samples were not taken for the Inorganic Contaminants (IOC) compliance monitoring and therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. This resulted in a Notice of Non-Compliance (NON) and samples were taken in January 2023, resulting in a Return to Compliance. IOCs (such as salts and metals) can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Some of these compounds are also added to improve the quality of your drinking water, such as chlorine and fluoride. The IOCs detected in the delayed sample included barium, fluoride and sodium. Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board
50 Arlington Avenue
Beverly, MA 01915

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Standard
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Permit No. 215

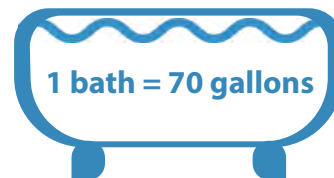
Water Conservation and Your Water Bill

Ever open your water bill and wonder what “100 cubic feet” actually means versus gallons? This is a common unit for water billing, and equals around 750 gallons of water. While that might seem like a large volume, every little bit helps to lower your water use and your bill. A shower uses between 10 to 25 gallons of water, but if you opt for a bath, that is around 70 gallons of water, increasing your water use by 200 to 600%! It will also reduce demand on your hot water heater, adding energy savings.



An EPA WaterSense-labeled showerhead uses no more than 2 gallons per minute of water—so check your fixtures and consider replacing them to conserve! To learn more about the EPA WaterSense program, check out [epa.gov/watersense](https://www.epa.gov/watersense).

BATH vs. SHOWER



**Bathing 10x =
100 cubic feet of water!**



**The Salem and Beverly Water
Supply Board's Mission**
*To deliver a high-quality, reliable, and
resilient water supply to our customers.*

Providing drinking water for over 110 years to nearly 90K residents



This report contains very important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable.
Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.