

Town of Mattapoisett
Water and Sewer Department

Water Facts and Figures

Town of Mattapoisett
Water and Sewer Department

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Office Hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday thru Friday excluding holidays

Water and Sewer Commissioners: Daniel W. Chase

Gary A. Gaspar

Christopher Jaskolka

Superintendent: William T. Nicholson

The Commissioners meet the second and last Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the Water and Sewer Department Office at 19 County Road.

1 – Approximately 75% of the earth is covered with water but less than 1% of this water can be made into drinking water with conventional treatment. There are also great quantities of water underground that are available for our every day use. This water is called groundwater; and 25% of all drinking water in the United States comes from groundwater.

2 – The **water cycle** keeps the amount of total water on earth constant. Water from oceans, rivers, lakes streams and other water surfaces evaporates to become clouds. Rain and snow drop from the clouds to replenish the rivers and streams and some of this water seeps into the ground to form groundwater. All this water flows to the oceans. Before returning to the ocean some of the water is taken for drinking water which is then discharged as wastewater. Wastewater is naturally filtered or treated at a wastewater treatment plant.

3 – **The drinking water** for 86% of Mattapoisett homes comes from the Mattapoisett River Valley District Treatment Plant. Multiple groundwater wells in the Mattapoisett River Valley feed water to the treatment plant before water becomes available to these homes. The remaining homes received their water from private wells.

4 – Approximately 54% of Mattapoisett homes are connected to the **Town's sewer network**. Sewerage is piped to the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal. Homes not connected to the Town's sewer network rely on private septic systems to handle wastewater.

5 – Mattapoisett has two above ground **storage tanks**. The storage tanks ensure that we have constant water pressure and sufficient water volumes to meet the demands of the Town.

6 – Mattapoissett **water is sold based on cubic foot usage**; and **sewer fees** are based on cubic foot water usage. One cubic foot of water equates to 7.48 gallons of water. A typical family of four will consume 70,000 gallons (9,358 cubic feet) of water in one year. In this example, and based on the current three tier fee schedule, one gallon of water costs \$.0075/gallon or \$7.50 for 1,000 gallons. If the home is connected to the Town's sewer network, the cost for sewerage is \$.0067/gallon or \$6.70 for 1,000 gallons of sewerage.

7 – The Town of Mattapoissett **bills for water and sewer usage twice each year** – as of April 1st and October 1st. Payment is due within 60 days.

8 – **Water and sewer fees cover** debt service for new facilities and for system repair and expansion. The fees pay for the day to day (24 hours each day) operation of the water and sewer systems including staff costs, necessary chemicals, for electricity to run the pumps and for propane for the emergency power backup systems.

9 – What should we **avoid putting into the waste water stream**? Contrary to popular belief, cooking fats and oils should not be put into the sewer system. They gum up the grinder pumps, slow down the treatment process and create blockages in the pipes. Hydro carbons, motor oils, paint thinners, turpentine, etc should never be put into the sewer system. Take these items to the periodic hazardous waste day events.

10 – Sometimes you will get **stains on plumbing fixtures and discoloration of the water**. Brown specks in the water are from iron and manganese and may appear following a disruption in the system - usually a high water pressure occurrence. There are no health issues with iron and manganese. Flushing of the water mains will clear this problem. Green stains on fixtures and appliances are indicative of copper. Too much copper can cause an upset stomach. A problem with copper is usually caused by the copper pipes within the dwelling.

If you notice any discoloration in water contacts the Water and Sewer Department immediately for their action.

11 – Application for permit to connect the Town's water or sewer networks must be made to our office at 19 County Road.