



Bring back the tap!

Hanover's tap water is clean, safe, and tastes good too!



Independent Lab Tests Show Hanover Water Beats Bottled Water

The results are in -- Hanover tap water contains fewer impurities than bottled water.

The Dartmouth Office of Environmental Health & Safety collected water samples in spring of 2007 from an office kitchen at Dartmouth College and from a water cooler provided by a local bottled water company. The samples were sent to an independent, nationally accredited laboratory for analysis. The results found that both samples met all federal and state drinking water standards, while the Hanover sample actually contained less chloride, nitrate, and dissolved solids than bottled water.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Drinking water for the town of Hanover comes from three protected reservoirs and is filtered at a state-of-the-art treatment plant.

Hanover Water Works¹ constructed a **new membrane filtration plant** that began operation in 2007 – greatly improving the safety and quality of our tap water. Here are some facts:

- Membrane filtration is an advanced technique that removes sediment, algae, fungi and bacteria that can cause taste and odor concerns.
- The membranes have pore diameters of 0.1 microns (common bacteria are 0.5-1 micron).
- With this new technology, less chlorine is needed and the taste has improved.

Did You Know

Why drink tap water? Tap water is cheap, safe, and environmentally-friendly.

- Tap water is ***much cheaper***. Hanover tap water costs less than one cent per gallon, while bottled water can cost thousands of times more.
- Tap water is tested regularly for contaminants and is regulated ***more stringently*** than bottled water.²
- Plastic water bottles are a petroleum product. It takes ***17 million barrels of oil*** to produce the bottles for the 30 billion liters of bottled water consumed in the US annually.³
- Bottled water has a large ***carbon footprint***. Three tons of carbon dioxide are produced for every one ton of plastic.
- Producing bottled water consumes ***twice the amount of water*** than what is actually sold in the bottle.

What can I do?

Bring back the tap at home and at work.

- Drink Tap Water – it saves you money and protects the environment.
- For the most refreshing drink, let the tap run until the water is cold.
- Carry a reusable water bottle to fill up when needed.
- Convince friends and family to kick the bottled water habit.
- Unplug your office water cooler and use tap water instead.
- Serve tap water for your office meetings and events.
- If you do drink bottled water occasionally, remember to recycle your bottle.



Hanover Water Works: Quick facts

- Incorporated in 1893
- Serves approximately 8,000 consumers; the largest being Dartmouth College
- Average demand is slightly over 1 million gallons per day (MGD)
 - Plant has the capacity to treat up to 3.5 MGD
 - Water is stored in 3 reservoirs with a total capacity = 505 million gallons
 - Hanover's reservoirs are located in protected watersheds with little development (many surface water sources in other towns are located in watersheds with residential, commercial, and even industrial development)



Above: Fletcher Reservoir
Below: New Filtration System

This fact sheet was developed by the Dartmouth Sustainability Initiative, Office of Environmental Health & Safety, and Hanover Water Works Company (est 1892). March 2009.

¹ See <http://www.hanovernh.org/hwvc> for more information about Hanover Water Works and the quality of Hanover tap water.

² Olson, Eric D. *Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype*. Natural Resources Defense Council, April 1999.

³ *Bottled Water and Energy, A Fact Sheet*. Pacific Institute, http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water_and_sustainability/bottled_water/bottled_water_and_energy.html, accessed January 9, 2009.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.



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