

EDGARTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # 4089000  
ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY YEAR 2008 REPORT

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YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

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This report explains how drinking water provided by the Edgartown Water Department is of the highest quality. Included is a listing of results from water-quality tests as well as an explanation of where our water comes from and tips on how to interpret the data. This "Consumer Confidence Report" is required by law. We're proud to share our results with you. Please read them carefully.

**Edgartown Water Department's drinking water meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking-water standards.**

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular water commissioners meetings occur on the second Tuesday each month, at the water department office, 24 Machacket Road, at 4:00 PM. The public is welcome.

**Overview**

In 2008, the Edgartown Water Department distributed 308,082,000 million gallons of water to the Town. Water main projects completed last year included The Field Club, Old Farm Way, Oliver ST., The Boulevard, Magnolia Way, Nora's Way, Plantingfield Way, Pilgrim Rd and Edgartown Bay Rd

**Water Source**

What is the source of our water? Five wells at depths ranging from 60 to 120 feet in Edgartown supply our system with groundwater of high purity. The wells and pump stations are located at: Machacket, Machacket Road, Lily Pond, Vineyard Haven Road, Wintucket, Kavanagh Way Quenonima, Kavanagh Way and Nunnepog, Lovewell Way. Edgartown pumps water from the Martha's Vineyard Sole Source Aquifer.

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REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It 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, or farming.

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.

Pesticides and herbicides-which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the MA. Department of Environmental Protection prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the MA. Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

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**An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table**

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Unregulated or U:** Unregulated contaminants for which a maximum contaminant level has not been established.

**Parts per million or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)-** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppm) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**PicoCuries per liter (pCi/L)** - PicoCuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, Chloramines chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chloride dioxide) below any known or expected health risks. MRDLG'S do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Non-Detectable (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** - Out of every 10 tested sites 9 were at or below this level.

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

### WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

CONTAMINANT	90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE	#OF SITES EXCEEDED	# OF SITES SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL		VIOLATION (Y/N)	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper	0.290 mgL 08/02/07	0	60	1.3	1.3	N	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	0.002 mgL 08/02/07	0	60	.015 mg/L	.015mgL	N	
CONTAMINANT	DATES COLLECTED			MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION (Y/N)	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform	HIGHEST # POSITIVE IN A MONTH (PWS COLLECTS < 40 SAMPLES PER MONTH)	0	per month 7 Sept - May 29 June - Aug	1		N	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC	DETECTED/DATE	#OF SITES EXCEEDED	# OF SITES SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION (Y/N)	
Nitrate	0.61, 0.23, 0.14, 0.48 0.57mgL 07/24/07, 7/28/08	0	5	10 mg/L		N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sulphate	5, 6, 4, 6, 4.8 ppm 05/19/08	0	5	U	U	N	Natural sources
Sodium	16, 20 mg/L 11/05/08	0	2	U	U	N	Naturally present in the environment
VOLATILE ORGANIC							
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)	ND-2.0 ppb 03/12/08	0	14	5 ppb		N	Leaching from AC pipes
Chloroform	2, 4, 2 ppm 4/21/08, 08/06/08	0	3	U	U	N	Naturally present in the environment
RADIONUCLIDES							
Gross Alpha Activity	-0.35 (+/- 0.3) 10/27/08	0	1	15 PCi/L		N	Naturally present in the environment
Radium 226, 228	0.5 (+-0.3) 10/27/08	0	1	5 PCi/L		N	Naturally present in the environment

#### Variations and Exemptions

In 2008, Edgartown's water system was granted monitoring waivers for inorganic, synthetic organic and volatile organic contaminants due to no detections found in previous monitoring. Because the water has been found by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to be protected from these contaminants, monitoring frequency has been reduced.

For more information, call the Edgartown Water Department, at 508-627-4717.

This 2008 Water Quality Report was posted in the local newspaper, not mailed. However, it is available to the public upon request.

Edgartown Water Department

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