# EDGARTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT
# PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY # 4089000
# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY YEAR 2011 REPORT

## YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

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 58 Kavanagh Way, at 4:00 PM. The public is welcome.

**Overview**

In 2011, the Edgartown Water Department distributed 301,633,000 million gallons of water to the Town. Water main projects completed last year included Norton way, Pennywise Path and Katama Road.

**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 Quenomica, Kavanagh Way and Nunnepog, Lovewell Way. Edgartown pumps water from the Martha's Vineyard Sole Source Aquifer.

## REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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.

*"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 Edgartown 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."*

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**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 (mgl**)- 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, Chlorimines 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.
**90th 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 | 90TH PERCENTILE | #OF SITES EXCEEDED | # OF SITES SAMPLED | ACTION LEVEL | | VIOLATION (Y/N) | POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper | 0.70 mgL 09/14/10 | 0 | 30 | 1.3 | 1.3 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead | 0.003 mgL 09/14/10 | 0 | 30 | .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 Oct – March 29 April-Sept | 1 | | **N** | Naturally present in the environment |
| **INORGANIC** | **DETECTED/DATE** | **#OF SITES EXCEEDED** | **# OF SITES SAMPLED** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **VIOLATION (Y/N)** | |
| Nitrate | 0.26, 0.75, 0.07, 0.63, 0.77 Date: 09/01/2011 | 0 | 5 | 10 mg/L | | **N** | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrite | ND, ND, ND,ND, ND, Date 09/01/2011 | | | | | | |
| **VOLATILE ORGANIC** | | | | | | | |
| Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) | ND-4.0 ppb 03/25/2011 | 0 | 12 | 5 ppb | | N | Leaching from AC pipes |
| Chloroform | 1.05, 1.37, 1.63, 2.35, 6.00 ppm 11/11/11, 06/14/11 | 0 | 4 | U | U | N | Naturally present in the environment |
| **RADIONUCLIDES** | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Activity | 0.4 02/25/09 | 0 | 1 | 15 PCi/L | | N | Naturally present in the environment |
| Radium 226, 228 | 0.5 02/25/09 | 0 | 1 | 5 PCi/L | | **N** | Naturally present in the environment |
| **PERCHLORATE** | ND, ND, ND, ND, ND, Date: 08/18/2011 | 0 | 5 | 2.0 ug/L | | **N** | Both naturally occurring and man-made chemical used to produce rocket fuel, fireworks, flares and explosives. Can be present in bleach and some fertilizers. |

**Variances and Exemptions**
In 2011, 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 2011 Water Quality Report was posted in the local newspaper, not mailed. However, it is available to the public upon request.
Edgartown Water Department
PO Box 238
Edgartown, MA 02539