

# Oak Bluffs Water District

## Public Water System Information

**OAK BLUFFS WATER DISTRICT**  
PWS ID 4221000

96 VINEYARD AVENUE  
PO BOX 1297  
OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557  
Office: (508) 693-5527  
Fax: (508) 693-7014

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30AM - 12:00PM  
1:00PM - 4:30PM

## WATER SYSTEM CONTACTS

Kevin H. Johnson  
Superintendent

Joyce Kilmer-Garde  
Office Administrator

## GOVERNING BOARD

Oak Bluffs  
Board of Water Commissioners

Michael S. deBettencourt  
Chairman  
Raymond J. Moreis, Jr.  
Nelson S. Oliver

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Check office posting for schedule  
at 4:30PM  
at the Water District Office

All meetings are open to the public;  
if you wish to speak at one of our  
meetings, please call the Water District  
Office in advance to be added to the  
meeting agenda.

Please note that the meeting  
schedule is subject to change.

OBWD  
is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## 2018 Consumer Confidence Report

Volume 21

The Oak Bluffs Water District is pleased to present the 2018 Consumer Confidence Report. This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provide every year. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to our system:

- Continued work on the restoration of the Lagoon Pond Pumping Station
- Completed 2 water main repairs and renewals, 8 service repairs and 4 renewals
- Installed 21 new services, 1 meter pits, 4 fire lines
- Installed 1852 lf of new mains, replaced 224 meters, 81 new meters
- 2 hydrant replacements, backflow inspections 83

## Our Drinking Water Source

The Oak Bluffs Water Supply District obtains water from five sources as listed below.

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID	Location of Source
Well 1: Lagoon Pond Well	4221000-01G	Randolph Way
Well 2: Farm Neck Well	4221000-02G	Tradewinds Road
Well 3: State Forest Well	4221000-03G	Alwardt Way
Well 4: Madison Alwardt Sr. Well	4221000-04G	Alwardt Way
Well 5: John H. Randolph, Jr. Well	4221000-05G	Alwardt Way

Additionally, our water system is interconnected with the Edgartown and Tisbury water systems. In the event of an emergency, the Oak Bluffs Water District can be supplied by Edgartown and portions by the Tisbury system.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, the District does the following:

- Fluoride is added to aid in dental health and hygiene per the Board of Health. People having concern should consult with the Board of Health and their physician.
- Lime and Potassium Hydroxide are added to reduce levels of lead and copper by adjusting the pH to become non-corrosive.
- Polyphosphates are added to produce a chemical reaction preventing iron and manganese from forming nuisance particles.
- Sodium hypochlorite is utilized for disinfection ensuring that water is free of harmful organisms and safe to drink.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by us and by MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required. All chemicals used must be approved by the National Sanitation Institute and meet standards established by the American Water Works Association.

## Protecting Our Water Source

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. A susceptibility rating of *high* was assigned to this system using the information collected during MassDEP's assessment, based on the presence of at least one high threat land use within the water supply protection areas surrounding each of the five wells.

The SWAP Report notes the key issues of hazardous materials use and storage, residential septic system maintenance, heating oil storage and storm water runoff within the water supply protection areas.

Residents can help protect water sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use and disposing of hazardous household chemicals at hazardous material collection days
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at all town meetings.



With careful use, and by reducing sources of pollution, our groundwater will continue to be an important natural resource for years to come! The complete SWAP Report is available at the Water District Office, and also online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/sero/4221000.pdf>.

### Please Help Us Conserve Water

The OBWD volume of water pumped has increased substantially over the years during the months of July, August and September. Now more than ever will conservation be an important part of our community. Household water conservation not only saves water, but it saves energy too, energy needed to heat water and to run appliances. The implementation of the seasonal mandatory water conservation measures achieves two goals of regulatory compliance and water conservation.

- Check all faucets for leaks; even a slow drip can waste up to 20 gallons of water in a day!
- Check for toilet leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the toilet's tank. An "invisible" leak in the toilet wastes up to 100 gallons in a day.
- Only run full loads through your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Irrigation should have a rain sensor that should be tested seasonally. Time clocks should be adjusted to achieve conservation.

### Potential Substances Found in Tap Water

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, 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 storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) 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 US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent round of testing performed in accordance with state and federal regulations. All data shown was collected during 2018, unless otherwise noted in the tables. The Oak Bluffs Water District uses laboratories certified to perform water quality tests by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS	
ppm: parts per million; mg/l: milligrams per liter, one penny in \$10,000	pCi/L: picocuries per liter; a measure of radioactivity
ppb: parts per billion; one penny in \$10,000,000	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile: Out of every 10 homes, nine were at or below this level
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must adhere to.	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level; the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible 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 are no known or expected risks to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level; these standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
ORSG: Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards guideline; this is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.	N/A: Not applicable RDL: Reporting Detection Limit Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS					
	Highest # Positive in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Total Coliform	1	1	0	N	unknown

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in the water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING							
	Latest Date(s) Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppm)	6/26/2017	0.0018mg/L	0.015mg/L	0	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	6/26/2017	0.258mg/L	1.3mg/L	1.3	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

**About Lead:** 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. Our system 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 two 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>.

**School testing:** The OB Elementary, MVHS and MV Community Services preschools were all tested for Lead and Copper during July and September, 2017. **ALL schools were negative for lead.** All Copper results were well under the Action Level of 1.3mg/l. Results were as follows: OB Elementary 0.004 and 0.416mg/l. MVHS results were 0.088 and 0.425 mg/l. The MV Community Services preschool results were 0.129 and 0.223 mg/l.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant testing is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In an attempt to further their research and establish a better understanding of unregulated substances, the OBWD continues to participate in the E.P.A program for "Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring".

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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. US EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

	Latest Date(s) Collected	Highest Detected Amount	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (mg/l)	1-26-17	0.038	0.032-0.038	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	1-28-18	1.1	0.10-1.10	4	4	NO	Water additive to promote dental health
Nitrate (mg/l)	8-14-18	2.11	0.15-2.11	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	10-31-17	0.484	0.0-0.484	15	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 Radium 228 (pCi/L)	10-23-17	0.497 0.401	0.0-0.491	5	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>							
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	8-8-18	7.28	ND-7.28	80	na	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	2-21-18	0.57	ND-0570	5	0	NO	Discharge from industrial processes and dry cleaners

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Iron (ppb)	11-7-18	1340	ND-1340	SMCL 300ppb		N/A	Natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes
Manganese (ppb)	11-7-18	41	ND-40	SMCL 50ppb		N/A	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
Sodium (mg/l)	5-14-18	15.0	5.6-15.0	N/A	20	N/A	Natural sources; runoff from use of salt on roadways; byproduct of treatment process
Sulfate (mg/l)	11-7-18	6.2	3.3-6.2	SMCL 250mg/l		N/A	Natural sources
Free Chlorine NaOCl (ppm)	Daily	2.0	0.0-2.0	Average Quarterly High 2.1 ppm			Disinfection product added to ensure that water is free of harmful organisms and safe to drink.

### District News

Please check out our new and improved website and stay current with District happenings.

In 2018, the District produced **383.3** million gallons of potable drinking water (**~33.5 million gallon increase over 2017**) with the highest day demand of 2.80 million gallons on July 14, 2018.

Unidirectional flushing of the distribution system is now a part of the regular operating procedures semiannually.

**The District completed a DEP Sanitary Survey on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and was found to be 100% in compliance. Next survey 2019.**

### What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between any part of a potable water system and any source of contamination or pollution. A potential cross-connection can come from your own home. An example of this could be a garden hose connected to a spray applicator for fertilizer. If there was a drop in pressure in the water system from let's say a hydrant flowing or a main break, this could potentially allow for a backsiphon of fertilizer into the water system. This can be prevented using an attachment on your hose-to-house connection called a hose bib atmospheric vacuum breaker.

The Oak Bluffs Water District recommends the installation of this backflow prevention device for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase these at a hardware store or a plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in our town! For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact the Water District Office.

**Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre a qualidade de sua água. Por favor, traduzir este relatório, ou ter um amigo ajudá-lo a compreender o seu conteúdo.**