Harwich Water Department

All Harwich Villages
1998 Annual Water-Quality Report

This brochure explains how drinking water provided by Harwich 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.

We are proud to report that the water provided by Harwich Water Department meets or exceeds established water-quality standards.

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water.
Consult our Web site at [www.oncapecod.com/harwichwater] and, for further information, see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/

Overview
In 1998, your water department distributed 619,321,800 million gallons of water to the Town of Harwich customers. We installed 22,836 feet of new water mains. During the next year we will continue to improve the distribution system and install and upgrading water mains.

Water Source
Harwich Water Department is supplied by groundwater pumped from 12 wells located in North, East and South Harwich. We will also be completeing the construction on station #11 in the late summer of 1999 and have it on line shortly after the first of September.
During 1998, a source-water assessment was completed for The Harwich Water Department by The Department of Enviromental Protection. Copies are available from D.E.P., One Winter St., Boston MA. 02108, or by telephone at 1-617-292-5500.

An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table
Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked Maximum Detected shows the highest test results during the year. Sources of Contaminant shows where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. Columns headed MCL and MCLG refer to:
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 (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Key To Table

AL = Action Level MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL = million fibers per liter
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
pci/l = picocuries per liter (a mesure of radioactivity)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
TT = Treatment Technique

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Range	Major Sources	Violation

				Level				
Inorganic Contaminants								
1 Lead	6/17/98	ppb	AL=15	0	12.00	1 - 12	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
2 Nitrate	2/2/98	ppm	10	10	1.56	0.02 - 1.56	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
3 Copper	6/17/98	ppm	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	0.86	0.05 - 0.86	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	NO
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters	1/1/95	pCi/L	15	0	1.00		Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
4 Chloroform	10/19/98	ppb	9,999	9,999	0.86	0.05 - 0.86	By-product from drinking water chlorination	NO

Water-Quality Table Footnotes

1 90% Percential was 0.51 ppm
2 Average is 0.78 ppm
3 90% Percential was 0.004 ppm
4 Average is 1.9 ppb

These columns show the results of tests on our finished water.

Explanation of Violations

Duration:
Health Effects:
Action Taken:

These columns show the results of tests on our finished water.

Unregulated Contaminants

During testing our water showed a radon of level of 1 picocuries per litre (pCi/l). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing a requlation which will specify a Maximum Contaminant Level for radon. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in ground water and is released from water into the air during household use. At high exposure levels it can cause lung cancer. Radon readings in our water are low and should not cause concern.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The 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 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:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

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

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(E) 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Concerning Lead in Our Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the higher the lead level may be. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water also helps in reducing levels. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

This report was prepared by the Harwich Water Dept. staff and technical assistance provided by the American Water Works Association. For futher information please call the office at 432-0304.

We'll be happy to answer any questions about Harwich Water Department and our water quality. Call David Condrey at 508-432-0304.

Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.

Learn more about the Harwich Water Department water system at [www.oncapecod.net/harwichwater].

American Water Works Association
Dedicated to Safe Drinking Water

Member of NEWWA, MWWA, PCWWA and BCWWA.