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

WATER SYSTEM CONTACTS

Michael G Silvia
Superintendent

Coreen Alton
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

2024 Consumer Confidence Report — Volume 27

The Oak Bluffs Water District is pleased to present the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report. This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that we provide every year. This report also includes 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, in 2024 we made the following improvements to our system:

- Replaced 309 water meters
- Installed 2800 feet of new 6-inch water main and 400 feet of 8-inch water main
- Repaired 15 water leaks
- Added 29 new accounts and conducted 45 trench inspections
- Added 5 new fire hydrants and repaired 3 fire hydrants

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:

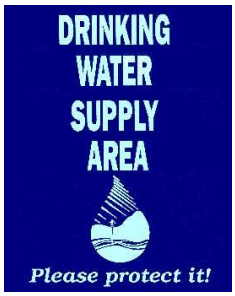
- Fluoride (NaF) is added to aid in dental health and hygiene per the Board of Health. Customers with concerns should consult with the Board of Health and their physician.
- Lime ($Ca(OH)_2$) and Potassium Hydroxide (KOH) are added to reduce levels of lead and copper by adjusting the pH to become non-corrosive.
- Polyphosphates are added to produce a chemical reaction preventing iron and manganese from forming nuisance particles.
- Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) 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 https://www.mass.gov/doc/oak-bluffs-water-district-swap-report/download

Mandatory Water Ban Information

During the Summer of 2023, Oak Bluffs Water District filed a Notification of Water Use Restriction with MassDEP pursuant to the Water Management Act. This notice instituted a Mandatory Water Ban for the town of Oak Bluffs. The ban was specific to ALL non-essential outdoor water use. Officially, this ban was in place May1 – Sept. 30/2023. To notify towns people, signs were posted in heavily trafficked areas of town, and a Notice was posted to the Oak Bluffs Web Site.

For 2025, OBWD filed an updated Notification of Water Use Restriction with MassDEP. This filing extended the mandatory water ban due to MassDEP declaring a Level 2 (significant) drought for the Cape and Islands on 1/1/25. The mandatory ban will be in place for 2025.

Potential Substances Found in Tap Water

Sources of drinking water (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.

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 number 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 indicate that water poses a health risk.

Water Quality Testing Results

The water quality information shown here is from the most current round of testing performed in accordance with state and federal regulations. 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	90th 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 contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCGLs 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. MCGLs 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 the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.	MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of 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	2	1	0	Y	Increase Usage across town

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. Coliform can indicate the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING

	Latest Date(s) Collected	90TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppm)	8-22-23	3.9 µg /L	15 µg/L	0	30	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8-22-23	0.7019mg/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. If 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 EPA Hot Line website.

School testing: The OB Elementary, MVHS and MV Community Services preschools were all tested for Lead and Copper during September/2023.

Lead Action Level is 15 µg/L. MVRHS result was 2.3 µg/L (kitchen wash sink) OB Elementary result was 1.6 (kitchen wash sink). MVCS (*faculty sink*) lead was ND. **Action Level for Copper is 1.3mg/L.** Copper results were as follows: OB Elementary 0.677mg/L (kitchen wash sink) MVRHS results .537mg/L (kitchen wash sink). The MVCS preschool results were 0.539 mg/L (hall bubbler).

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
	Latest Date(s) Collected	**Highest Detected Amount**	**Range Detected**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Violation (Y/N)**	**Possible Source(s) of Contamination**
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (mg/L)	5-15-24	0.0328	0.0328	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	12-31-24	1.11	0.025-1.11	4	4	NO	A water additive to promote dental health
Nitrate (mg/L)	8-21-24	1.87	ND – 1.87	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	15	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 Radium 228 (pCi/L)	10-23-17	0.497 0.401	0.0-0.497	5	5	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Organic Contaminants							
Trihalomethanes (µg/L)	8-21-24	2.6	2.6-2.7	80	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	8-21-24	ND	ND – ND	60	60	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Tetrachloroethylene (µg/L)	12/19/24	0.53	ND-0.53	5	5	NO	Discharge from industrial processes and dry cleaners
PFAS6 ng/L*	10-21-24	5.98	ND–5.98	20	20	NO	Widely used in manufacturing, consumer products and fire-fighting foam
Free Chlorine NaOCL (ppm)	Daily	2.68	0.1-2.68	Average Quarterly 1.343 ppm			Disinfection product added to ensure that water is free of harmful organisms and safe to drink

* *Measured in parts per trillion. During 2020, MASSDEP set a new requirement for public water systems to test for PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). The test results above show trace amounts at OBWD's Lagoon and Farm Neck wells. At the State Forest Wells, PFAS was not detected.*

PFAS DETAILS**						
Chemical	**Latest Sampled**	**Highest Detected**	**Range**	**MCL**	**Violation (Y/N)**	**Chemical Name and Possible Source**
HFPO-DA	10/21/24	ND	ND	10.0	N	Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (Gen-X) Replaced PFOA in the marketplace
PFBS (ng/L)	10/21/20	1.04	ND-1.04	2000	N	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid Used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products
PFHxS (ng/L)	10/21/24	1.23	ND – 1.23	10.0	N	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid Used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products
PFNA (ng/L)	10/21/24	ND	ND	10.0	N	Perfluorononanoic Acid Used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products
PFOS (ng/L)	10/21/24	1.45	ND – 1.45	4.0	N	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid Used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products
PFOA (ng/L)	10/21/24	3.89	ND – 3.89	4.0	N	Perfluorooctanoic Acid Used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products
Hazard Index ***	10/21/24	0.12	0.12	1.0	N	Calculated Result from a Formula using sampling results

** MASS DEP and state laboratories provide testing results for many PFAS chemicals in the same report. Moving forward, sampling results will show individual results for PFAS chemicals. Each chemical will have an MCL and a Goal. These individual chemical MCL's are different than the PFAS6 MCL.

*** Hazard Index $= \left(\frac{HFPO-DA}{10}\right) + \left(\frac{PFBS}{2000}\right) + \left(\frac{PFNA}{10}\right) + \left(\frac{PFNxS}{10}\right)$

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Iron (ppb)	2-7-24	1200	ND-1200	SMCL 300ppb		N/A	Natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes
Manganese (ppb)	2-7-24	38.9	38.9	SMCL 50ppb		N/A	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
Sodium (mg/l)	2-7-24	7.3	7.3	N/A	20	N/A	Natural sources; runoff from use of salt on roadways; byproduct of treatment process
Sulfate (mg/l)	2-7-24	7.53	3.77-7.53	SMCL 250mg/l		N/A	Natural sources

Unregulated contaminants have 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. 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 people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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.

District News

In 2024, the District produced **400.9** million gallons of potable drinking water **(~12.0 Million Gallons LESS than 2023)** with the highest day demand of 2.6 million gallons on June 25.

Unidirectional flushing of the distribution system is now a part of the regular semi-annual operating procedures.

The District completed a DEP Sanitary Survey on May 4, 2022, and was found to be 100% in compliance. Next survey **2025.**

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is any connection between a potable water system and a source of contamination or pollution. A cross-connection can come from your own home. An example of this could be a garden hose connected to a spray applicator for fertilizer. A drop in pressure in the water system can cause a back siphon 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.

To prevent this situation, 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 device protects the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in our town!

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.