

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
2550 CRANBERRY HIGHWAY  
WAREHAM, MA 02571



2007 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant (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 (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.

**Radon** is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also be released from tap water when showering, washing dishes, or doing other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon from tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air-containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increase risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 Pico curies per liter of air (pCi/l) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800.SOS.RADON)

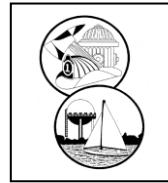


**New-Dedicated Sampling Station - Marion Road**

Board of Water Commissioners  
Edward J. Tamagini, III, Chair  
Theodore S. Hatch, Vice-Chair  
John B. English, III, Clerk

2007 Consumer Confidence Report  
Wareham Fire District Water Department

Wareham, MA  
PWSID MA4310000



The Wareham Fire District Water Department is pleased to present to you our Annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is designed to inform you about your drinking water. Through this report, we hope to ensure you that we are providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.



**WATER SOURCE - Wareham's** water originates from seven gravel packed wells within the Plymouth-Carver sole source aquifer. Each well is drilled to a depth of 60-90 feet. The wells are located in isolated areas of Maple Springs and Seawood Springs. We work hard to protect these wells from potential contamination. You can be assured that the Board of Water Commissioners considers protection of the well fields as their top priority. As such, in recent years the Board of Water Commissioners with matching grant water supply protection funds has purchased over 30 acres of land in the well fields, this now adds up to almost 300 acres permanently protected. The District continues to exceed the minimum monitoring requirements set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). For example, we annually conduct additional monitoring for pesticides and herbicides used in the cranberry industry that are not currently regulated.

The Department of Environmental Protection has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the Wareham Fire District. It can be obtained from the DEP website: [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/swap/reports/4310000.pdf](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/swap/reports/4310000.pdf) The SWAP Report notes the highest potential source of contamination threat comes from improper pesticide storage or use and illegal clandestine dumping of trash that may contain hazardous materials or waste. The SWAP Report commends the Wareham Fire District for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in the Water Supply Protection Areas through: the acquisition of undeveloped lands within the Zone II recharge area, supporting residential growth management within the Zone II and conducting an independent study of pesticide and herbicide impacts on the groundwater in the Zone II.

The water system includes seven wells, 2 corrosion control facilities, 2 water storage towers, and approximately 200 miles of water main. The only chemical added to your water is lime (calcium hydroxide) to increase the pH to between 7.0 and 8.5.



The Wareham Fire District Water Department is located at 2550 Cranberry Highway, Wareham, MA. We can be reached at telephone number (508) 295-0450 or email address [michaelmartin@verizon.net](mailto:michaelmartin@verizon.net). The Wareham Fire District Board of Water Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise posted.

**WATER QUALITY - Wareham Fire District Water Department** routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows any detection resulting from our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2007\*. (\*If no tests were required for a given contaminant in 2007, the law requires the most recent test results be included here. However, no test results over 5 years old are allowed.)

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** – 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 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, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, 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 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 tap water is safe to drink, the DEP and EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

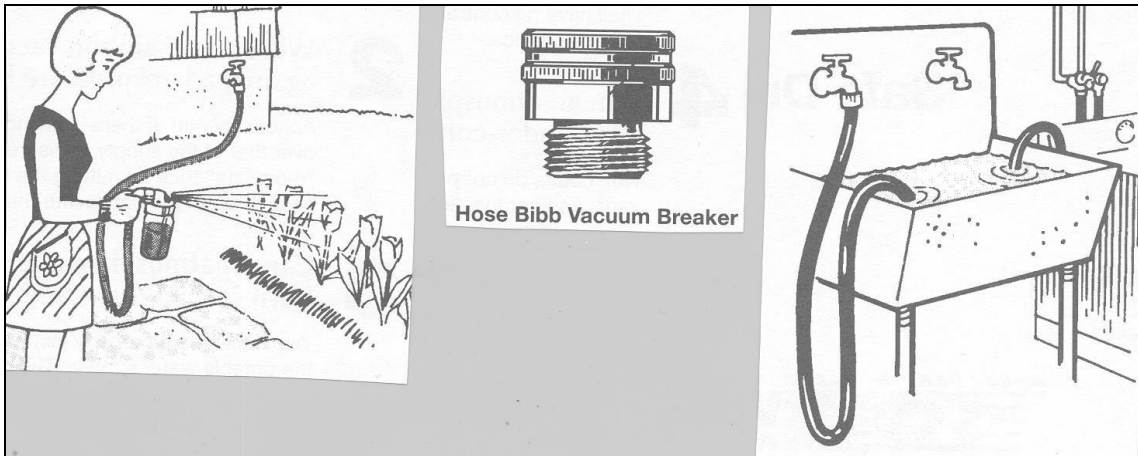
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-ten thousand chance of having the described health effect.

Another way to protect the water supply is prevention of cross connections and backflows from service connections. As of July 2002, all new and retrofit water services require backflow protection. Backflows can occur whenever a potable water line is connected to fire protection, lawn irrigation, heating and air conditioning, or other equipment and piping. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure in the water main in the street drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. A drop in pressure of water mains are most likely to occur due to either physical water main breaks or use of hydrants for fighting fires. Some other examples of a potential cross connection are a garden hose attached to a service sink with the end of the hose submerged in a tub full of detergent, left submerged in a swimming pool or submerged in an open cesspool.

**BI-ANNUAL WATER RATE: FIRST 4000 CUBIC FEET (30,000 GALLONS) \$75.00  
EACH ADDITIONAL 100 CUBIC FEET (750 GALLONS) UP TO \$2.60 – WATER  
CONSERVATION OVERAGE RATE – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008**

A free brochure titled “**50 Cross-Connection Questions, Answers, & Illustrations Relating To Backflow Prevention Products and Protection of Safe Drinking Water Supply**” is available for pick up at the Water Department office. For more information on preventing backflows, contact the Water Department or the Town of Wareham Plumbing Inspector.



The following list is a summary of the Backflow Cross-Connection Program for 2007:

- In 2007 there were 141 Commercial, 15 Industrial, 30 Municipal, and 15 Institutional sites in the District
- In 2007 there were 32 sites surveyed for backflow cross connections within the four categories above, for a total of 123 surveys completed in the last three years. This completed the initial survey of all known facilities in the District. The District will now re-survey existing sites beginning with the higher risk facilities in the upcoming year.
- There is a total of 133 Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventor (RPBP) devices and also 155 Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) devices, for a combined total of 288 testable backflow devices registered in the District
- The District staff of certified testers performed a total of 416 annual or bi-annual tests of registered backflow devices in 2007.

The Wareham Fire District Water Department works hard to provide quality water to every tap. We ask you to help us protect and conserve our water sources. For our residential customers we offer free water conservation kits. To obtain one, please come by the water office.

**ODD/EVEN LAWN SPRINKLER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT  
MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY – PENALTIES APPLY**