

Dewey Beach Water System
1713 Bayard Avenue, Dewey Beach, DE 19971
2012 Consumer Confidence Report for Results of Jan - Dec 2011
PWS ID # DE 0000825
May 15, 2012

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The State of Delaware's Division of Public Health routinely monitors the drinking water supply for Dewey Beach for constituents according to Federal and State laws.

Where does my water come from?

Sussex County supplies the users within the Dewey Beach Water District with drinking water purchased from the City of Rehoboth Beach. The City of Rehoboth Beach has wells which withdraw from the Columbia aquifer. If you have questions regarding the City of Rehoboth's water utility, please contact Howard Blizzard, Water Supervisor at (302) 227-3194.

Sussex County's Water Department's office is located at 1713 Bayard Avenue in Dewey Beach. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Heather L. Sheridan, Director of Environmental Services at (302) 855-7730.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Division of Public Health, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has conducted source water assessments for nearly all community water systems in the state. Please contact the City of Rehoboth's Water Department at (302) 227-3194 regarding its availability and how to obtain a copy of this assessment. You may also review it on the website:

<http://www.wr.udel.edu/swaphome/index.html>.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain trace 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 (EPA) 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, 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; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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 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 (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Additional Information for 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. Dewey Beach Water 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 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>.

Additional Information for Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.