

TAPTALK H₂O!

Division of Public Health

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Tapping Into Good Health

Myth or Fact: Bottle Water is Better

By Donna Trader

Bottled water costs about 500 times more than tap. A recent study found that kids who drink bottled water have a higher risk of cavities in their baby teeth than children who drink tap water, why? Most public water systems are fluoridated, and most bottled waters are not. In many areas of the country, tap water is safe and healthy – and the fluoride it contains helps prevent cavities. But if you choose to go for an unfluoridated bottled variety, ask your pediatrician and dentist whether you should give your child fluoride supplements; a new recommendation published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine says that supplements are a good idea if your child's not getting fluoride from your water.

We sip 60 million bottles of water a day in our cars, at the gym, behind our desk. Those bottles are being tossed into landfills, where they can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. Recycling helps but reusing is even better. Invest in a couple of portable, dishwasher-safe, stainless steel bottles. Don't get into the habit of refilling the water bottle you just emptied; the polyethylene terephthalate it's made of breaks down with multiple using.

Tap water is tested daily. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, water suppliers are required to provide an annual report on the quality of your local water and to test tap water daily. By comparison, the FDA examines bottled water only weekly, and consumers can't get the agency's results. You can easily get the results on your state's drinking water quality at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html>



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Office of Drinking Water

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The Administrator's Corner

By Ed Hallock

Program Administrator
Office of Drinking Water



In my last report I noted that we had lost two employees. ODW is happy to report this time that we have replaced both of them and are now, once again, fully staffed.

Tommy Stepnay has been hired as the Environmental Control Technician II for the northern territory. Many of you may already know Tommy since he has been serving in that capacity as a casual/seasonal employee. Jim Richardson has been hired to fill the Environmental Health Specialist II position for the northern territory. Jim comes to us with a lot of experience in the wastewater field and is looking forward to the challenges of implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act. ODW is looking forward to working with both gentlemen.

I want to remind all community water system owners that the time for distributing your annual consumer confidence report is fast approaching. The Office of Drinking Water will be sending out your water sample results in mid to late March this year. I want to take a moment to thank our data entry staffs who have done an excellent job of ensuring that all test results are entered into SDWIS in a timely manner. We will be holding training sessions in March and April.

I want to recognize the City of Wilmington for their work in getting the Cool Spring finished water reservoir covered. It has been a huge project and much work has been done to date. Once this project is completed the residents will have a safer water supply and a new park for recreational activities that they can enjoy. This project was a win-win for everybody involved.



Employee Spotlight Richard Relford:

Richard Relford joined the Office of Drinking Water as an Environmental Control Technician in October of 2006 after retiring from the United States Air Force and FedEx. Richard is a Vietnam Veteran and an avid golfer. Richard is married with 2 sons. Richard primarily works in the Southeast and Southwest territories.



Employee Spotlight Corinne Stayton:

Corinne Stayton accepted the Administrative Assistant II position with the Office of Drinking Water in March 2007. She is responsible for administrative duties in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program.

Before arriving at ODW, Corinne worked with the Dental program at DHSS. Corinne is currently enrolled at Wilmington University where she is completing her Early Childhood Education degree. Corinne's hobbies include photography, traveling, and spending lots of time with her daughter Averie.

Public Notices 2008

System Name	Violation	Date Issued	Date Returned to Compliance
Frederica Water Department	Treatment	08/17/07	Pending
Guardian Angels Daycare	MTBE	11/16/07	03/18/08
Gulls Way Campground	Nitrate	09/25/07	Pending
Hockers Supercenter	Nitrate	03/03/08	04/04/08
Lakeland Mobile Home Park	Bacti	01/29/08	Pending
Lloyds Deli and Resale Shop	Nitrate	01/04/08	Pending
National Vulcanized Fiber II	Bacti	08/16/07	01/07/08
Pepper Ridge	DBP	01/09/08	Pending
Pickering Beach	Bacti	09/25/07	12/18/07
Sandcastle Daycare	MTBE	05/16/07	09/12/07
Savannah Place	Nitrate	03/07/07	Pending
Shore Stop 231 - Rising Sun	Nitrate	11/02/07	Pending
Smith Landing	Nitrate	07/19/07	Pending
St. Andrews School System II	Bacti	02/29/08	Pending
Sussex Pines Country Club	Nitrate	02/26/08	Pending
Tool Box Grill	Nitrate	02/08/08	Pending
Woodside Goose Creek	Bacti	11/06/07	01/30/08
Woodland Manor	Bacti	02/26/08	Pending
Woodland Trailer Park	Bacti	09/21/07	01/29/08

2008 Delaware & Maryland Children's Water Festival Update

The Office of Drinking Water, along with DNREC, EPA, and the Water Systems Council are organizing the 2008 Children's Water Festival scheduled to take place on May 8, 2008 at Delaware Technical, Terry Campus in Dover.

Look for pictures in the Summer 2008 Newsletter.

State Fair is fast approaching

The Office of Drinking Water is going on the road again. Look for our booth on Healthy Kids Day on July 22, 2008 at the upcoming Delaware State Fair under the Wilmington Trust entertainment tent. The 2008 Delaware State Fair runs from July 17-26.

Have you received your CCR data sheet?

The 2007 data sheets were mailed out on April 1, 2008 and several of you probably picked them up in person during a CCR training. If you have not received your data sheets, please contact the Office of Drinking Water at (302) 741-8630.

2008 Delaware Rural Water Conference Wrap Up
Feb 27, 2008
DE State Fairgrounds

Photos by Donna Trader



The Mayberry Deputy, A.K.A. David Browning was on hand for crowd control, and Ed Hallock, Administrator for the Office of Drinking Water.



The winner of the annual water tasting contest is the City of Lewes.

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