

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners  
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Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*  
Peter L. McDowell, *Vice Chair*  
Alan Tuttle

## Main-Line News

[www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org)

Appointed by Water Commissioners  
\*\*\*\*\*  
David Larkowski, *Superintendent*  
Sheryl A. McMahon, *Clerk & Treasurer*  
James Ritchie, *Asst. Superintendent*

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### State Agency Conducts Sampling Program in Dennis

The District began a collaborative sampling effort with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) in the fall of 2018. The monitoring study is an effort initiated by MDAR to collect data in support of the pesticide regulatory program specifically related to the protection of groundwater resources used for drinking water supplies. The study involves the collection of water samples from public wells that are in close proximity of Eversource's right-of-ways (aka high powerlines). The samples will look to identify the presence of certain pesticides and herbicides used in the electric company's approved vegetation management plan as well as those used in lawn and turf management on Cape Cod.

To date, no pesticides known to have been used or applied by Eversource on the powerlines have been detected in any of the samples. However, at two locations there has been a detection of *Imidacloprid*. There are over 400 products for sale in the United States that contain Imidacloprid. It is used in houses, for crop treatment and in flea products for pets. The highest level detected was .06 ppb (parts per billion) well below the Human Health Benchmark of 360 ppb set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Yes, your water is safe.

What is the District doing? When the detection was discovered, the District requested, and MDAR agreed, to conduct further testing in the distribution system. No detections of insecticides were reported. Since Imidacloprid is not from a powerline maintenance related activity and only those wells along the powerlines were originally tested, the District requested, and MDAR agreed, that a complete round of samples from all public wells in the system be taken. These results were not available as this publication went to print.

The detection of Imidacloprid was a surprise to District officials. Its presence in drinking water is not regulated by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection and is not a contaminant that is normally tested. In fact, at the time of this article, subsequent tests results for the original well sites had returned to a "Not Detected" status.

The District wishes to extend its appreciation to the officials at MDAR for this sampling initiative and its funding for the testing. The District will continue to investigate this issue and report its findings in the future.

#### True or False

- 1) 10% of domestic tap water is used for drinking.
- 2) Ground water is generally safer than surface water.
- 3) Showers use the most water in American households.

Answers on Reverse

### FIRE HYDRANTS NEAR YOU

There are more than 1,650 fire hydrants in the Town of Dennis. They are owned and maintained by the Dennis Water District. Of course, the primary reason for fire hydrants is to put out fires. However, the District does use them for flushing water mains as well.

Fire hydrants are only effective if firefighters can find them and fully operate them. There should be no obstructions between the hydrant and the street and nothing within a 3-foot radius of the hydrant that would prevent its proper operation. This means no shrubs, ornamental grasses, plants, fences and rock walls. Obstructions such as these make it difficult to quickly find and operate the hydrants in an emergency.

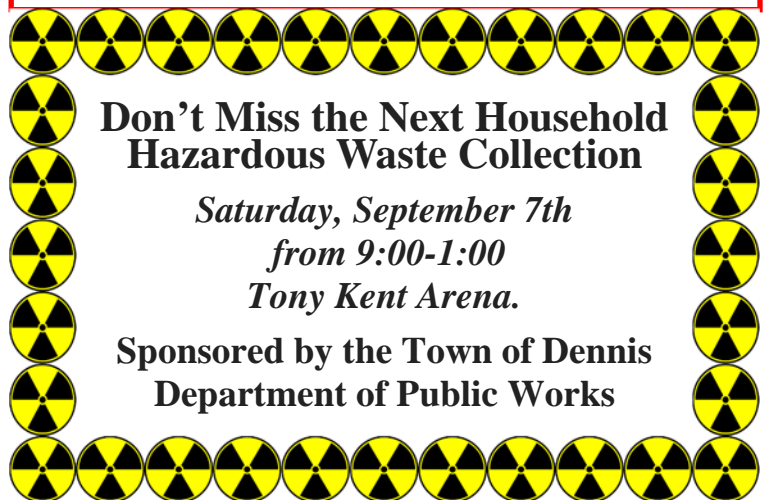


They can't use it, if they can't find it.

**Q:** *The hydrant in front of my house is ugly and I want to make it less conspicuous, may I?*

**A:** Absolutely NOT! Deliberately hiding a hydrant is a serious offense. It is not only unlawful but, you could be putting life and property in jeopardy when firefighters are unable to find and operate a hydrant quickly. If you wish to do some landscaping, wall construction or fencing please contact the Water District or the Fire Department to have your plans reviewed to insure proper clearances. This will prevent property owners from having to pay additional costs to essentially "undo" previous landscaping and even your own personal hard work.

*Hydrants Continued...On Reverse*



**Don't Miss the Next Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

*Saturday, September 7th*  
*from 9:00-1:00*  
*Tony Kent Arena.*

**Sponsored by the Town of Dennis**  
**Department of Public Works**

## “HARD” WATER or “SOFT” WATER? A Common Question

The hardness of water generates a number of questions from homeowners particularly when they purchase a new appliance. Often these new appliances come with recommended instructions based on the degree of hardness of the local public water supplied to their homes. While most people tend to think that softer is better, it's worth understanding exactly what these terms mean and how they affect your home and your health.

Hard water typically contains higher levels of certain minerals, namely calcium and magnesium—the higher the concentration, the harder the water. These dissolved minerals can leave deposits in plumbing, heating systems, pots and pans. The presence of minerals in water depends on an area's geological rock formations and the length of time water is in contact with them.

In Iowa, for example, the primary rock formation is limestone and as water passes over and through it, significant levels of calcium and magnesium are dissolved, making the water hard. Iowa's raw water can average a hardness of 370 milligrams per liter which is considered “Very Hard”.

Water Hardness Scale		
Grains/Gal	mg/L or PPM	Classification
Less than 1	Less than 17.1	Soft
1-3.5	17.1-60	Slightly Hard
3.5-7	60-120	Moderately Hard
7-10	120-180	Hard
Over 10	Over 180	Very Hard
1 gpg = 17.1 mg/L = 17.1 ppm		

Compare this to Cape Cod which was formed by a retreating glacier at the end of the Ice Age. It is primarily made of sand and glacial till. There is very little calcium and magnesium dissolved in Dennis' drinking water. The hardness is about 6 mg/l total making our water “Very Soft”. In some cases, you may need to know the unit grains per gallon. Our water is less than 1. For additional water quality information, please see our Consumer Confidence Report at [www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org). If you have a specific question please call 508-398-3351.

### Answers

1. False: Only 3% of domestic tap water is used for drinking.
2. True: The ground acts as a purification filter.
3. False: 27% of tap water is flushed away in toilets (approx).  
(Source: American Water Work Association)

## Receive Message When Your Next Water Bill is Ready for Payment

In collaboration with **UNIPAY**, District customers can now receive an email alert when their next water bill is available for payment. First you must register on **UNIPAY**. There is no cost to register and you do not have to bank with Unipay. Go to [www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org). In the “Easy Access” section select “Pay Bill”. On the **UNIPAY** website, in the upper right hand corner select “Login”. At the bottom of the next dialogue box select “Register”. When you pay this August bill online, the payment confirmation page will let you can sign up for “**MANAGE ALERTS**”. This will send you an email when future bills arrive (text alerts coming soon!).

## WARNING!!!

### Be Careful of Third Party Payers

The office has received a number of complaints from customers paying their water bill through an online bill pay service known as Doxo. The website appears as [www.doxo.com](http://www.doxo.com) and is a legitimate on-line bill payer but, be warned! There are usually significant fees attached to each payment and they take longer to be received by us.

To be on the safe side, go to the District's official website at [www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org). If you use an internet search to find the District's site, there is a way to make sure you are on the correct site. Hover your mouse over the title that appears in the search results and note the web address that [Dennis Water District: Login, Bill Pay,](#) appears in the very bottom left of the window.



That's where you will be taken if you click on that title. Doxo is deceptive because they take clips from our website to make it look like Dennis Water. They also do the same thing for Town of Dennis online tax payments. Be careful. Note: If paying by personal check is costing more than 25¢, chances are you are on the wrong site.

Hydrants Continued...From Front

**Q: As a property owner, what can I do to help?**

**A:** You can keep an eye on a hydrant near you. It would be tremendously helpful to trim back vegetation that is obscuring a hydrant, ensure that adequate clearances and proper visibility are maintained and notify the Water District of any damage or maintenance issues you observe. Property owners that clear snow around hydrants are unsung heroes and we do very much appreciate their efforts. If you are unable to clear snow following a storm and it hasn't been cleared in a reasonable amount of time, please don't hesitate to contact the District office at 508-398-3351. Thank you.

