



View from the  
**LIGHTHOUSE**

THE FUEL COMPANY  
summer 2016



## Water Safety Remains a Concern on Cape Cod

**“How’s the water?”** That’s a question that is heard on beaches across Cape Cod all summer long, usually aimed at swimmers enjoying a dip in the refreshing Atlantic swells. But it is also a more serious question that Cape residents are asking about the safety and purity of the water they use for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. The answer is increasingly, “Not so good.”

According to the Cape Cod Groundwater Guardian Team ([www.capegroundwater.org](http://www.capegroundwater.org)), the Cape’s water supply is subject to “contaminants such as disease causing organisms, solvents, cleaners, petroleum compounds, PPCP’s (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) and other emerging contaminants.” These include “chemicals or microorganisms that are not commonly monitored or regulated in the environment, but are suspected of having potentially adverse ecological and/or human health effects. They can include hormones, human and veterinary pharmaceuticals, and household products like soaps and lotions, insect repellents, perfumes and other fragrances, sunscreens, and hand sanitizers.”

The frequency and severity of water quality issues are on the rise, both in municipal water supplies and private wells. While towns are scrambling to find ways to treat the public water supply (Falmouth is building a new water treatment plant that is expected to open in 2017), it remains up to individual homeowners to protect the health and safety of their families by performing their own water filtration.

### Does Water Filtration Work?

Many of us think of water filtration as something you attach to the end of the kitchen faucet. But the charcoal devices used in those rudimentary filters are not designed to capture

elements or materials that may have dissolved in the water. For that you need a more sophisticated and powerful filter that uses a process called “reverse osmosis.”

In reverse osmosis, pressurized water is passed through a semi-permeable membrane made of a thin-film composite material with microscopic openings that allow water molecules, but not larger compounds, to pass through. The water passes through the membrane, while contaminants are trapped and remain behind. Reverse osmosis filters out bacteria, salts, proteins, particles and other materials that have a molecular size of greater than 1/10,000th of a micron. That is just barely larger than a single molecule — far smaller than the human eye can see!

Reverse osmosis systems also use a process known as crossflow that allows the membrane to continually clean itself. As some of the water passes through the membrane the rest continues downstream, sweeping the blocked materials away from the membrane. This results in a big increase in filtration capacity, meaning a reverse osmosis system can provide all the safe, pure water a typical home will need.

### Find Out If Your Water is Safe

The best way to find out if your home’s water has been tainted by contaminants or toxins is to have it tested. The Fuel Company, through our AquaSafe subsidiary, is offering free water purity tests for residential customers. Call us or go online to [www.drinkaquaSAFE.com](http://www.drinkaquaSAFE.com).

Call for a **FREE**  
**Water Analysis**

Find Testing on water from across Cape Cod has revealed the following contaminants:

- Dissolved solids including lead, arsenic, nitrates and perchlorate
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzene and MTBE
- Microbiological contaminants (bacteria, e. coli)
- Sediment
- Iron from rusting pipes
- Prescription drugs that have been improperly discarded



## Cool It!

Cape Cod first became a popular destination as a place to escape the hot, sticky summer months in the city. But while tens of thousands of Bostonians and New Yorkers enjoy our cooling breezes every summer, some of us know what a great place it can be all year ‘round.

And we also know that “cooling breezes” is a relative term. Let’s face it, the Cape can still be hot, humid and uncomfortable. And damp, let’s not forget damp.

One way to make the heat more bearable and the humidity less drenching is through the modern miracle of air conditioning. Once considered a luxury, air conditioning has become more accessible and affordable – and much quieter – since the introduction of ductless cooling systems like those from Mitsubishi Electric.

With cooler indoor temperatures comes a significant reduction in humidity and moisture. Not only does this mean a more comfortable atmosphere for you, a drier home helps to prevent the growth of mold and mildew that can thrive in damp conditions. What’s more, the ductless cooling systems we install feature air filters that help to remove pollen, dust and other pollutants for improved indoor air quality.

### How Does a Ductless System Work?

If you are not familiar with ductless cooling systems, they utilize a compact interior unit,

usually discreetly wall-mounted, and operate virtually silently to cool your home. You can choose to cool one room or section of the home, or extend the system to cool your entire home.

One of the biggest advantages of a ductless cooling system is spelled out in the name – it is ductless. That means no expensive renovations or retrofitting of your home’s heating system is required to enjoy the cool benefits of a ductless system.

The real bonus you get with a ductless cooling system? When temperatures cool off in the fall, you can instantly switch the system over to “heat” mode and enjoy all the cozy warmth you desire, at the same high level of efficiency. It truly is a year-round solution to your home comfort challenges.

### Energy Rebates Available

The Mitsubishi Ductless Cooling & Heating systems we install are eligible for a variety of state and regional energy efficiency rebates, including those from MassCEC and Cape Light Compact. You could realize a savings of up to \$2,750 – a great incentive to move quickly to install a ductless system in your home.

Call us to learn more about how you can help you stay cool AND dry this summer with Mitsubishi ductless cooling system.

**Save \$2,750 in MassCEC and Cape Light Compact rebates**

## CAPE COD TRIVIA

What is the name of the Falmouth team that plays in the famous Cape Cod Baseball League?

*Look for the answer in the next issue.*

*Answer to our last issue’s trivia question...*

Q: Who is widely credited as being the founder of the world famous Falmouth Road Race?

A: Tommy Leonard, a bartender at Boston’s Eliot Lounge and the Brothers Four in Falmouth Heights, came up with the idea of bringing world-class runners to Falmouth, which led to the first Falmouth Road Race in 1973.



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