

**Town of Edisto Beach - Water Improvement Project - Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**New Water Treatment Plant Initial Operation - Notice to Drinking Water Customers**

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The Town of Edisto Beach water supply comes from groundwater wells in the Santee Limestone aquifer. This existing water supply has elevated levels of chloride, fluoride, and sodium concentrations that affect taste and may cause corrosion in the distribution system and residential plumbing and appliances. The Town's primary goal is to provide safe, clean water to our customers. We want to treat the existing "salty" water so we can continue using this valuable water source and provide improved water to our customers.

The water improvement project was implemented to reduce the mineral content in the water and provide adequate supply to meet high seasonal demands during the summer tourist season which far exceed the demands during the winter months. The project consists of combining reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment with additional supply and storage to resolve the dual problems of water quality and water supply.

We will begin sending treated reverse osmosis water to our distribution system soon. This notice is to provide you, as our customers, information about what has happened and what we are doing to initiate operation.

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

**What is Reverse Osmosis?** Reverse osmosis is a water treatment process that uses pressure to separate dissolved salts and other ions from water. Pressurized water is applied to a semi-permeable membrane. The membrane allows the water molecules to pass through the membrane but rejects the dissolved salts and other ions.

The RO project is now in the startup phase. We anticipate having DHEC approval to operate in February so the Town of Edisto Beach Utilities Department will soon be bringing online the new RO water treatment plant. Customers may notice a temporary change in the taste, odor, and/or color of the water. This temporary change is not harmful. Please note that when distribution of new water begins, there may be some discoloration and sediment. If you are using a Reverse Osmosis system in your home, you may want to speak with your vendor to discuss how it may impact your system if it is operating when distribution begins.

Anyone who uses a kidney dialysis machine at home may want to contact their equipment supplier so the proper filtering equipment may be installed. Tropical fish or aquatic animal owners may also want to contact a local tropical fish store for appropriate pretreatment of the water before adding water to tanks.

Please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours at (843) 869-2505 x 211 if you should have any questions. A finished water quality report will be available at Town Hall once the RO plant is online.

**What Can You Do to Help?** Even though the Santee Limestone aquifer is very productive, we are limited in how much water we can pump.

- Please consider decreasing lawn irrigation settings and plant hardy, drought resistant foliage. Considering the cost of installing the new RO plant and the QUALITY of the water it will produce, it is a shame to spray it on the ground.
- When was the last time you checked your home for leaks? In the U.S., about 14% of all water used inside a home is due to leaks.

This notice is being sent to you by The Town of Edisto Beach. State Water System ID#: SC1510006. Date distributed: February 3, 2020.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). \**