

**Safe Homes = Safe Families Month**

* The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) promotes wise management of Michigan's air, land, and water resources to support a sustainable environment, healthy communities, and vibrant economy
* The DEQ has primary enforcement authority in Michigan for the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act under the legislative authority of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.
* The DEQ has regulatory oversight for all public water supplies, including investigating drinking water well contamination and overseeing remedial activities at sites of groundwater contamination affecting drinking water wells.
* Annual water testing is recommended especially if you use a private well for drinking water. City water systems are continually monitored for water safety but it is up to homeowners to monitor their private wells for pollutants like bacteria and nitrates. A bacterial analysis can detect bacteria, including *E. coli*, an indicator of potential contamination, along with other serious pathogens such as hepatitis and salmonella. Depending on where you live, testing for pesticides or other factors may also be recommended.

# Facts:

**Water Testing**

 **(Insert Local Health Department Contact Information)**

**Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act**

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wd-water-fos-tsu-Act399.pdf>

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Water**

<http://www.epa.gov/ow/>

**Current Drinking Water Standards - EPA**

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/index.html>

**Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory** at 517-335-8184 or

DEQ-RRD-DW-Bottles@michigan.gov

**SERVICES AVAILABLE:**

**(Insert Local Health Department services)**

**Information Resources:**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**ABOUT WATER TESTING**

**What should I have my water tested for?**

Homeowners should contact their Local Health Department for a recommendation of what to have their water tested for. EPA recommends that private wells be tested for coliforms and nitrates/nitrites at a minimum.

**Can I use any container to collect my water sample?**

No. You must use a sample bottle that is appropriate for the testing that will be done on your water sample because preservatives and the volume of sample required are specific to the test. Additionally, DEQ sampling units have been quality control checked for specific analyses. A list of required bottles or units along with test codes can be found on the Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory Testing Fee Schedule.

**How do I order bottles for collecting my water sample?**

You can order bottles for collecting your water sample by emailing the Bottle Order form to DEQ-RRD-DW-Bottles@michigan.gov, fax to 517-335-8562 or call 517-335-8184. Many Local Health Departments also have a supply of DEQ sample bottles, forms and mailing materials.

**HOW DO I COLLECT MY WATER SAMPLE?**

Instructions for collecting your water sample are on the back of the *Request for Water Analysis* form. Find your sample bottle or Unit # on the back of the form. Follow the instructions to collect your water sample. Different bottles have different collection requirements based on testing methods and preservatives that may be included in your bottle. For additional questions contact the Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory.

**DOES MY WATER SAMPLE NEED TO BE REFRIGERATED AFTER I COLLECT IT?**

Possibly. If you received an ice pack with your sample bottle, please ensure that the ice pack is frozen prior to returning your water sample to the Laboratory. Some tests require thermal preservation upon sample collection. Do not freeze the sample prior to submission. Samples received frozen are not acceptable for testing.

**DO I REALLY NEED TO INDICATE THE DATE AND TIME MY WATER SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED?**

**YES.** You **must** indicate the collection date and time (circle am or pm) for your water sample on the *Request for Water Analysis* form. Testing methods have an EPA maximum allowable holding time from the time your water sample was collected until the time of testing. Without the collection date and time, it is not possible to determine if your water sample can be tested within the holding time.

**WHEN CAN I EXPECT TEST RESULTS FOR MY WATER SAMPLES?**

You can expect test results for your water sample in 3-10 days after your sample is received at the Laboratory. For fastest reporting, enter your email address on the *Request for Water Analysis* form to get your test results. First class mail may take an additional 3-4 days due to recent changes in the United States Postal Service.

**CAN I SEND MY DEQ WATER SAMPLE BOTTLE TO ANY LABORATORY?**

If your sample bottle came from the Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory you **must** return your water sample to the Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory at 3350 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, Michigan 48906.

**DO I HAVE TO BRING MY WATER SAMPLE TO THE LABORATORY IN PERSON?**

No. You may send your water sample to the Michigan DEQ Drinking Water Laboratory along with your completed Request for Water Analysis form and check/money order by UPS, FedEx, or USPS. Please know, first class mail may take an additional 3-4 days due to recent changes in the United States Postal Service. UPS Ground, Express Mail, or FedEx are recommended for short hold time samples.