

2018 FREE WELL WATER SCREENINGS FOR NITRATE

The Branch County Conservation District will be accepting drinking water well samples to screen for nitrates and nitrites Monday & Tuesday September 10th & 11th 2018 from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the USDA Service Center located at 387 N. Willowbrook Rd, Coldwater MI. This screening is sponsored by the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and is paid for by funds generated from Michigan pesticide and fertilizer registration and tonnage fees. There is no fee to participants for this service.

The screening is open to everyone who uses a personal well for drinking water; however, the number of samples that can be tested may be limited. Check with the Branch County Conservation District for more information.

This service is for private drinking water wells only. Public water supplies are tested regularly. Please do *not* bring samples from public water supplies or non-drinking water sources. Only drinking water well samples will be tested. You do not have to use a special bottle for this screening. Any small clean jar will work – one ounce of water is enough.

Please follow the directions below to sample your well. *Collect samples just before getting them to the sample drop-off. Samples must be less than 48 hours old for a valid nitrate result.*

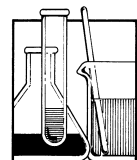
1. Fill out the Water Sample Information Sheet on the reverse side of this page.
2. Pick a tap that supplies water that has not run through any treatment devices (water softener, carbon filter, etc.). An outdoor faucet often works well.
3. Run the water for 20-30 minutes before collecting the sample. This will give the pump time to flush the water pressure tank and plumbing so you can collect a valid sample. Disconnect any hoses before collecting the sample; do not sample through a hose. Rinse the sample bottle and lid thoroughly in the water to be sampled; then fill and cap the bottle.
4. Label the bottle clearly with your name, the sampling date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc.) using a waterproof pen. Put the sample information sheet into a waterproof bag, and then seal the water sample and the information into a second waterproof bag.
5. Keep the sample dark and cold (on ice or refrigerated) until it is dropped off.

All results are confidential. You will be mailed a copy of your results in 8 to 10 weeks, with information about what to do if the concentration of nitrate or nitrite is too high.

Be sure to fill out the Sample Information Sheet completely and bring it with your water sample to the drop-off. **We need a complete mailing address to get your results back to you.**

You can get more information by contacting the Branch Conservation District at 517-278-2725 ext. 5

This program is sponsored by local conservation districts, the MAEAP Water Stewardship Program, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is funded through the Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act, the MDARD, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.





2018 MICHIGAN DRINKING WATER WELL SCREENING SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET

Sample Code Number (Please Leave Blank)

Please complete this form and turn it in with your well water Sample. Complete one form for each sample submitted. Please write clearly!

Name _____

Sampling Address (where sample was taken)

Mailing Address for Results (if different)

Street _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

County _____

County _____

Date Sampled: _____

Sampling Point: It is very important to identify the sample clearly with a name (cottage well, mom's well, etc.)

Well depth, feet (estimate if unknown) _____ Age of well, years: (estimate if unknown) _____

Well diameter (circle the correct figure, estimate if not known): 2" 4" 5" 6" Other _____

Do any pregnant women or infants under 6 months old regularly live in this home? Y N
if No, skip this line. If Yes, do they drink the water supplied by this well? Y N

Please indicate the distance in feet from the well to: Nearest farmed field (not pasture) _____
Nearest pasture with grazing livestock _____
Nearest septic system drain field _____
Nearest animal yard/feedlot (cattle, horses, chickens, pigs, etc.) _____
Nearest pesticide or fertilizer storage or mixing area _____
Nearest inland lake or pond _____

Please put a check by the best description of your general soil texture:
Very coarse/sand Sandy loam Silt loam Loamy or sandy clay
Heavy clay Organic/muck Other _____

Please circle or describe the main land uses within half a mile of your well (row crop, pasture, orchard, forest, rural residential, suburban, commercial, industrial, etc.) _____