

# WELL WATER SCREENING SAMPLE COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

**November 20, 2015 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ONLY**  
**Washtenaw County Conservation District**  
**7203 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor**

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.

You do not have to use a special bottle for this screening. Any small clean jar will work—one ounce of water is enough. Free sample bottles are also available at the District Office.

Please follow the directions below to sample your well.

***Collect samples just before taking them to the District Office, if possible.***  
***Samples must be less than 48 hours old for a valid nitrate result.***

1. Fill out the water Sample Information Sheet completely.
2. Pick a tap that supplies water that does 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 permanent pen or marker. Bring the water sample and completed Sample Information Sheet to the Conservation District office: 7203 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor.
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. A complete mailing address is necessary to receive your results.

For more information contact: Chris Coulter, Washtenaw County MAEAP Technician, at (734) 761-6721 ext. 101.

*This program is sponsored by the Washtenaw County Conservation District, the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, Eastern Michigan University, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.*



over for Sample Information Sheet



MI AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM
2015 DRINKING WATER WELL SCREENING
SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET

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

Sample Code Number
(Please Leave Blank)

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 (horse, cattle, 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.) \_\_\_\_\_