

Test Your Well Water At Least Annually

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both recommend having your private well water tested annually as water quality can change over time. Your certified laboratory will help make sure that you and our communities perform tests to look for harmful bacteria and other contaminants to determine the safety of your water.

How It Works

Stop into any DHD#10 office to pick up water testing kit. Our laboratory can test for Bacteria known as coliform, including E. coli, Nitrates and Surface Water Escherichia Coli, each test has a different bottle. You can do any combination of the three. All tests can be sent in the same cooler but cannot be frozen. The cost is \$20 per bottle.

Requirements

- **Bacterial** – Bacterial samples for drinking water must be received within 30 hours of being collected. After 30 hours, the sample will be rejected.
- **Surface Water** – Surface water bacterial samples must be received within 6 hours of being collected.
- **Nitrate** – Nitrate samples must be received within 48 hours of being collected. Sample must not be frozen, but have a temperature of 41 degrees F or less. The sample has to have an ice (gel) pack with it (provided).
- Follow instructions on the back of the Water Laboratory Analysis Request form for the best results.

Stop Into Any DHD#10 Location

CRAWFORD COUNTY

501 Norway St., Ste. 1
Grayling, MI 49738
989-348-7800

KALKASKA COUNTY

625 Courthouse Dr.
Kalkaska, MI 49646
231-258-8669

LAKE COUNTY

5681 S. M-37
Baldwin, MI 49304
231-745-4663

MANISTEE COUNTY

385 Third St.
Manistee, MI 49660
231-723-3595

MASON COUNTY

916 Diana St.
Ludington, MI 49431
231-845-7381

MECOSTA COUNTY

14485 Northland Dr.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-592-0130

MISSAUKEE COUNTY

6180 W. Sanborn Rd. Ste. 1
Lake City, MI 49651
231-839-7167

NEWAYGO COUNTY

1049 Newell St..
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-7300

OCEANA COUNTY

3986 N Oceana Dr.
Hart, MI 49420
231-873-2193

WEXFORD COUNTY

521 Cobb St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9942



Test Your Drinking Water

Learn more and download the Water Laboratory
Analysis Request Form on our website:

[www.dhd10.org/homeowners/
drinking-water-testing](http://www.dhd10.org/homeowners/drinking-water-testing)

District Health Department #10
Drinking Water Lab
916 Diana Street, Ludington, MI 49431



Drinking Water Lab

We All Need Clean Water

Clean drinking water is essential to our health. Unfortunately, water can become contaminated with bacteria found naturally in the environment or with man-made chemicals from industrial waste and fertilizers. That's why regulations are in place to protect human health from unsafe drinking water.

At the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets regulations and standards for monitoring and testing drinking water through the Safe Drinking Water Act. In Michigan, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) enforces these standards through the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. These regulations are primarily for Community Water Supplies, such as city or municipal water hook ups.

In Michigan, private wells that serve less than 25 people are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This means that it is up to the private well owner to make sure the drinking water is safe. The DEQ does investigate drinking water well contamination, oversees the water well drilling industry, and oversees remedial activities where groundwater contamination has affected private drinking water wells. DHD#10 administers DEQ programs for private wells.

DHD#10 has an in-house drinking water lab located at our Mason County office. We perform drinking water testing and analysis for the bacteria known as coliform, including E. coli, as well as for nitrates, which are man-made chemicals often used in fertilizer. We also can test surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams for E. coli.

3 Ways to Return Your Sample

- **Drop it Off** – Directly to the Mason County office at 916 Diana Street, Ludington, MI, 49431, Monday through Thursday, 8AM-4PM
- **Free shipping from 3 counties** – Samples must be shipped the same day they are taken. We must receive the bacterial water sample within 30 hours of collection or it will be discarded. Drop-off days are as follows:
 - Crawford - Tuesday, by 1:30PM
 - Mecosta - Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, by 1:30PM
 - Wexford - Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, by 1:30PM
- **Overnight it** – RECOMMENDED – To assure sample arrives on time. Use **Priority Mail Express**, typically \$30-\$32.
 - You will receive your results by mail, email, or fax. DHD#10 will also keep a record of your results where the sample was taken.

(Please note: Samples are not accepted the day before a recognized holiday.)

How to Collect a Sample

- Before you collect the Nitrate sample, make sure that ice/gel pack is frozen.
- Remove any aerator (screen) from the water tap. The screens will often be a growth area for bacteria. Use bleach or rubbing alcohol to clean the tap.
- Allow water to run full blast for 10 minutes. We want the force of the water to remove any debris the cleaning has loosened and assure fresh water from well.
- Tapper back water to clear stream the size of a pencil.
- Completely remove plastic seal from Bacteria bottle. Do not rinse the bottle, powder/crystal in bottle is part of the process. Do not sit cap down, do not touch inside of cap or bottle, fill bottle to 100 ml mark, recap bottle.
- Fill out the Water Laboratory Analysis Request form completely.
- Immediately ship or deliver the sample to us.

