

2018 MANISTEE CONSERVATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR WELL-WATER TESTING CLINIC ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11TH

The Manistee Conservation District will screen well-water drinking samples for nitrates on Wednesday, July 11th, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The screening is sponsored by the Manistee Conservation District and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). It is funded through the Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act, the MDARD, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and paid for by funds generated from Michigan pesticide and fertilizer registration and tonnage fees. It is sponsored by the Manistee Conservation District, the MAEAP Water Stewardship Program, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. There is no fee to participants for using this service. The screening is open to everyone who uses a personal well for drinking water.

Samples from drinking water wells will be screened for both *nitrates and nitrites*. Please drop them off at *Manistee Conservation District at our Bear Lake office, 8840 Chippewa Highway*. Information and forms are also available at www.manisteedc2.org.

Again, please note that this service is for private drinking-water wells only. Public water supplies are tested regularly. Therefore, 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-two ounces of water is sufficient.

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

1. Fill out the water Information Form which can be obtained by visiting our website by clicking [here](#), by stopping by the office in person, or by emailing the district at: susan.spencer@macd.org to request a form.
2. Pick a tap that supplies water that has not been run through any treatment devices (water softener, carbon filter, etc.). An outdoor faucet often works well.
3. Run the water for 20 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 a *clean glass bottle* or *mason jar* clearly with your name, the sampling date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc.) using a waterproof marker or label.
5. Keep the sample dark and cold (on ice or refrigerated) until it is dropped off.

All results are confidential. You can expect to 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 Information Form completely before bringing your water sample to the drop-off. **Note that we will need a complete mailing address to get your results back to you.** You will only be notified if there is a problem with nitrates or nitrites in your well. If you do not hear back after 10 weeks, it is likely your test was normal. If you have questions or need more information, contact the Manistee Conservation District Office at **231-889-9666** or by e-mailing the MAEAP Technician, Jamie Vanderzanden at jamie.vanderzanden@macd.org

**PRIVATE WELL INFORMATION SHEET
DRINKING WATER WELL SCREENING**



**Manistee Conservation District
With MAEAP**



Please complete this form prior to turning in with your well water sample and bring it with you on the day of the testing clinic.

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 _____ County _____	Phone _____ 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 in 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 the house	Nearest pasture with grazing livestock _____
	Nearest septic drain field _____
	Nearest animal feed lot (cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, etc.) _____
	Nearest pesticide or fertilizer mixing or storage area _____
	Nearest inland lake or pond _____
	Nearest farmed field (not pasture) _____

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