

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES FOR GETTING WATER SAMPLES AFTER YOUR NEW WELL IS DRILLED

After your new well is drilled and hooked up to the house, the well driller will chlorinate your well and plumbing for you. Let the chlorine set in the plumbing at least overnight.

The next day: It is best to take a hose and hook it up to an outside faucet. Turn the water on and let it run a minimum of **24 hours – it could take several days**, directing the water flow away from the house and your drainfield area if you have one.

Once you have **flushed** the system **until the chlorine is gone**, you can use the water for everything **EXCEPT** drinking and cooking purposes. **USE BOTTLED WATER FOR DRINKING AND COOKING UNTIL YOU GET A NOT DETECTED RESULT ON THE BACTERIAL SAMPLE.**

The more you flush the system, the better off you'll be. If you rush the process, you may have to resample because of positive results. This means you will have to wait another 8-10 days to get new results back.

You must sample either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. When you are ready to take the samples, your recommended sample point is the faucet at the pressure tank.

Use a cup filled with Clorox and push the fluid up so that the fluid goes up into the faucet. Hold it there for at least two (2) minutes. Then, turn the faucet on and flush for at least ten (10) minutes.

Your sample kit consists of two bottles – one is a bacteriological sample bottle and the other is a partial chemical sample bottle. It is recommended that you take the bacteriological sample (clear bottle) first.

Take the seal off from the bottle. The little white tablet in the bottle is supposed to be there to dispel any chlorine that would be in the water. Don't throw it out. Remove the cap and continue to hold it in your hand, slip the bottle under the faucet and fill the bottle to the line molded into the bottle. Immediately put the cap back on the bottle. **DO NOT** set the cap down anywhere and **DO NOT** touch the lip of the bottle.

Fill out the forms included in the kit. Make sure you include on the forms the **Date and Time Collected** as it is important that the lab knows they have received the samples within 30 hours from the time they were drawn.

Make your check or money order payable to the **STATE OF MICHIGAN** in the amount of **\$42.00**. Your postage for the double box will cost you approximately \$3.00 when you take it to the post office. **Mail from a zip code that starts with 488XX**. Other Zip Codes send the mail to Flint first, causing a day's delay in mailing time, thus exceeding the 30 hours. If the weather is hot, do not leave the kit in a drop box outside. Leave the kit inside the post office where it will be cooler.

It takes eight to ten (8-10) days to get the results back from both samples. If you have a POS (positive) sample, you will need to **contact your well driller** for advice on re-chlorinating your well. When you re-sample it would be for the bacteriological sample, only. Pick up a new bottle from our office for re-sample.

If you have any questions, please call Environmental Health at (989) 743-2390.