LABORATORY

WATER TESTING

SAGINAW COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
www.saginawpublichealth.org
1600 N MICHIGAN AVE.
ROOM 102
(989) 758-3825

FEES

DRINKING WATER

- Routine Well Water Analysis
  (Coliform, Anion and Cation) .......... $30.00
- Regulatory Drinking Water Analysis
  (Coliform and Anion) .................. $23.00
- Coliform only:
  - Routine (Up to 72 hrs) .......... $15.00
  - 24 hr Qualitative ................. $16.00
  - 24 hr Quantitative ............... $18.00
- Chemistry Only
  - Anion ............................ $12.00
  - Anion and Cation ............... $16.00

RECREATIONAL WATER

- Pool/Spa .............................. $20.00
- Coliform only:
  - Routine (Up to 72 hrs) .......... $15.00
  - 24 hr Qualitative ................. $16.00
  - 24 hr Quantitative ............... $18.00
  - Standard Plate Count ........... $10.00

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Rev. 10/15
CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

ANIONS

CHLORIDE
Chloride is found in most water supplies. Higher levels can impart a salty taste. Chloride also affects the rate of corrosion affecting some metals used in water handling systems.

FLUORIDE
Adequate levels of fluoride in drinking water are effective in fighting tooth decay. Fluoride levels may be used by dentists to determine if fluoride supplements are necessary. Too much fluoride may cause discoloration in developing teeth.

NITRATE & NITROGEN
Nitrate can get into water if a well is improperly constructed or located near a contamination source such as: sewage disposal systems, run-off from barnyards or fertilized fields, or industrial wastes. Nitrate may also be naturally occurring in the soil. Too much nitrate can cause nitrite poisoning, especially in unborn babies, infants, and children.

SULFATE
Sulfate occurs naturally in drinking water. High sulfate concentrations may have laxative effects. Sulfur-oxidizing bacteria pose no known human health risk.

CATIONS

HARDNESS
"Hard" water is high in dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium. Hard water is not a health risk, but a nuisance. Problems associated include increased deposits, discolored water, staining, and a salty taste.

IRON
Not considered hazardous to health. Iron is essential for good health because it transports oxygen in your blood. Problems associated include taste, discoloration, corrosion, and sediment.

SODIUM
Sodium is naturally found in drinking water, and when added to water it softens the water. High sodium levels can cause distaste and corrosion. Persons on restricted salt diets may wish to use this information in estimating their sodium intake from water when consulting their physician.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Initial testing of drinking water looks for coliform organisms. If present, further testing is done to determine if E.coli is one of the coliform organisms found.

COLIFORM ORGANISMS
A group of bacteria found in the intestinal tract of warm blooded animals, surface water, some soils, and decaying vegetation.

A POSITIVE RESULT
- May indicate that the water is not properly protected from contamination
- Does not meet the State standards for drinking water

E. COLI
An organism that originates from mammal or bird intestinal tracts.

A POSITIVE RESULT
- Means it is more likely that the water contains disease-causing organisms resulting from fecal contamination
- Does not meet the State standards for drinking water

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends yearly testing of private well water.

The Laboratory Services Division of Saginaw County Department of Public Health performs Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis on drinking water to determine the water quality.

TO HAVE YOUR DRINKING WATER TESTED

- Obtain a sterile collection bottle and instructions from the Laboratory:
  - Weekdays 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Collect the sample from your cold water tap following the instructions
- Keep the sample cold until it is returned to the Laboratory
- Deliver the sample to the Laboratory within 24 hours of collection. Samples are accepted Mon, Tues, & Weds only, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (subject to change during holidays)
- Call or visit the laboratory within a week of submittal to receive results

SWIMMING POOLS & PONDS

Private & public swimming pools, ponds, bathing beaches and other recreational waters are tested for bacteria.

- Obtain a collection bottle from the laboratory with the proper preservative
- Return water to the laboratory:
  - POOLS: Monday only, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Results available Friday after 4:00 p.m
  - PONDS: BATHING BEACHES & OTHER: Tuesday – Thursday before 3:00 p.m.
  - Results available 24 hours after sample received by laboratory

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Obtain a sterile collection bottle and instructions from the Laboratory:
  - Weekdays 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Collect the sample from your cold water tap following the instructions
- Keep the sample cold until it is returned to the Laboratory
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