

## Why Test Your Water?

Relying on groundwater from a private well can raise health and safety concerns, as well as cause issues affecting household routines. There is no such thing in nature as “pure” water. Water contains contaminants, even in the absence of nearby pollution-causing activities. Dissolved minerals, organic carbon compounds, and microbes can find their way into your drinking water from exposure to air, soil, and rock layers.

Obvious water problems such as laundry staining, hard water scale, and objectionable tastes and odors, may be evidence of excessive levels of contaminants in your water supply. Many of these contaminants are naturally occurring and are more of a nuisance than a hazard. Testing your water for chemicals causing these problems can provide you with valuable information when considering a water treatment system.

The presence of more harmful contaminants, such as bacteria, nitrate, or nitrite have the potential to cause health effects, particularly in the very young or otherwise vulnerable persons. These contaminants may lie silent and may not cause health-related symptoms immediately. The only way that you can ensure a safe water supply is to have periodic analysis of your drinking water.



The Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory (NMRL) was established in 2005 and is part of the Michigan Regional Laboratory Network. The water testing laboratory at NMRL conducts surface and drinking water bacterial analysis for total coliforms and E. coli as indicators of fecal contamination. The water laboratory also performs a chemistry profile for nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, chloride, sodium, hardness, iron, and sulfate.



## Qualifications

The laboratory professional staff has more than 22 years of experience and specialized training in chemistry, mathematics, biology, and laboratory science. Laboratory testing is performed using state of the art analytical equipment and approved EPA methods. A rigorous quality assurance and quality control program ensure high quality results. NMRL is certified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for compliance monitoring under Act 399, Michigan’s Safe Drinking Water Act.

## 2018 Laboratory Fees

**Bacteriological Analysis**      \$20.00  
Tests for the presence of Total Coliforms and E. coli

**Partial Chemistry Analysis**      \$20.00

Includes:

- ✓ Fluoride
- ✓ Chloride
- ✓ Hardness
- ✓ Nitrate
- ✓ Nitrite
- ✓ Sulfate
- ✓ Sodium
- ✓ Iron



If you would like an Environmental Health Sanitarian to collect your water samples, call your local health department office for more information.

Special bulk rates are available for large sampling volumes.

**NOTE:** Unless your water well has been properly designed, constructed, and maintained, a test result conforming to state standards may give you a false sense of security. A defective well can produce intermittent satisfactory bacteriological tests, but its continued safety cannot be assured.

While coliform bacteria and partial chemical testing are good screening tools, they do not detect petroleum products, industrial solvents, heavy metals, herbicides and pesticides. More comprehensive testing may be appropriate for your site. We can assist you in deciding what type of testing may be needed.



## Analytical Excellence

Whether you need to comply with complex drinking water regulations or simply sample the drinking water in your home, NMRL can provide the technical expertise and analytical experience you would expect from a state of the art certified drinking water laboratory.

For 13 years we have provided the community with a unique combination of technical and regulatory expertise, combined with unmatched customer service. Our extensive experience in the analysis of drinking water and other clean water samples provides you with the confidence that your testing will meet all applicable monitoring requirements.



## 2 Shipping/Delivery Options to the lab:

### 1. Save money and time by returning your sample to any of our 4 Environmental Health offices!

Simply collect your water sample and drop it off the same day (see below) to our Bellaire, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, or Gaylord office. We will ship it to our laboratory in Gaylord at no extra charge.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Samples MUST be collected on the day they are dropped off. Drop-offs will only be accepted on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings between 8 am and 11 am in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties. Samples are accepted 8 am to 4 pm in Otsego county, Monday thru Thursday only.**

2. You may also arrange your own shipment, or drop off samples at the laboratory in Gaylord in person. It is your responsibility to ensure samples are received by the laboratory **within 30 hours** of collection. (Be sure to check with the USPS or other shipping company to make sure your sample will arrive in time. You may have to pay an additional charge for overnight delivery.)



# Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory



**Certified Drinking Water Laboratory and Analytical Services**

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