

**KEEP THIS FORM TO HELP YOU INTERPRET YOUR RESULTS**



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LABORATORY SERVICES SECTION

The Environmental Protection Agency requires testing of Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and Nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>) in drinking water from public supplies be performed within 48 hours of taking the sample. If testing takes place after 48 hours, results will be evaluated for validity by the regulating agency. In order to meet this time constraint, please submit samples so they are received in the DEQ Laboratory between Monday and Thursday.

If you have questions about our schedule, testing, or any other water testing matter, please feel free to call us at (517) 335-8184 or the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278.

**INTERPRETATION OF COMMON TESTS**

General guidelines for interpreting results of the most common types of chemical testing are given below. Contact your local health department for a more detailed evaluation. Chemical testing results are reported in mg/L, which is equivalent to parts per million (ppm).

<u>TEST</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>MAY BE OBJECTIONABLE</u>
Chloride	ND - 20	20 - 250	Over 250
Fluoride	1.0 - 1.2	0.7 - 2.0	Over 4.0
Hardness	25 - 100	100 - 250	Over 250
Iron	ND - 0.2	0.2 - 0.5	Over 0.5
Nitrate	ND	1 - 10	Over 10
Nitrite	ND	0 - 1.0	Over 1.0
Sodium	ND - 20	20 - 160	Over 160
Sulfate	ND - 50	50 - 250	Over 250

<u>TEST</u>	<u>RELATED PROBLEMS</u>
Chloride	Taste and corrosion.
Fluoride	Moderate levels are beneficial in reducing tooth decay. Mottling of teeth at high levels.
Hardness	Scaling of water fixtures, laundry problems, water spotting, discoloration at high levels. Corrosion at low levels.
Iron	Staining, turbidity, taste, color and odor.
Nitrate	May cause methemoglobinemia in infants.
Nitrite	May cause methemoglobinemia in infants.
Sodium	Taste and special diets may require water of low sodium content.
Sulfate	Higher levels may have a laxative effect, especially for new supply users.