



Fact Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions regarding water testing

Is my tap water safe?

Your local water department is committed to providing superior quality water that meets or exceeds the high safety standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Act sets forth a rigorous scientific process to set standards for drinking water quality. Skilled water professionals work tirelessly to fulfill the standards and protect public health and safety.

Why are private companies going door to door asking to test homeowners' water?

These companies are in the business of selling water treatment systems. They may make false or misleading claims about the quality of communities' drinking water. For example, one mailing implies that the tap water in a particular area contains contaminants when in fact the water meets all regulatory requirements. Such misleading information is designed to create concerns among water customers and convince them to invest in a home treatment system.

Will I be obligated to buy some filtering equipment if I agree to have my water tested?

Do not sign or agree to anything that requires you to buy a filter or other home treatment device as a condition of testing water. If you are considering purchasing a water filter or other home treatment device, we encourage you to make a fully informed decision. Your local water department's staff, who are not motivated by sale of equipment, are available to offer advice on any drinking water question or issue.

If you decide to purchase a water treatment device, make sure it is certified to address the issue of concern to you. [NSF International](http://www.nsf.org) is an independent organization that certifies home treatment devices. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to make sure the device is properly installed and maintained.

Does my public water provider also provide testing services?

If you get municipal water at your home, your water is tested and checked constantly by your local water department. We want people to know as much as possible about their water quality. Talk to your water department about your water quality report and other information they publish that explains the testing done on your water. The more informed you are about your tap water quality, the more confidence you will have in it.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding water testing (cont.)

What is the process for testing my water?

Check with your local water department on the specific process in your area.

“How can I be sure the test results by the companies offering to test my water are accurate?”

Water testing is a scientific process based on rigorous criteria, which every water department in Michigan is certified to conduct as part of its water delivery system. Water professionals have been trained in current nationally recommended standards and procedures and testing only uses state certified laboratories. It may be difficult for independent companies to provide the same assurance of accuracy as a certified laboratory that uses state of the art equipment and employs professionals with years of experience, training and specialized scientific knowledge.

“Since my water comes from the same treatment facility as that of my neighbors, won't all the test results be the same?”

Not necessarily, since water quality not only relies on how it is treated before it is distributed, but also on the condition of the pipes that deliver the water to a home or business. Some pipes in older homes or buildings, for example, may affect the quality of the water that eventually comes out of the tap. If you have concerns about the quality of your tap water, contact your local water department and speak with one of the water quality professionals.

How can I find out more about my water quality?

Contact your water department, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, or the Environmental Protection Agency for reports on water quality in your area.

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