

## WATER TESTING DIRECTIONS

The Adams County Conservation District's water testing program is offered on the **1st WEDNESDAY of each month, unless \*noted otherwise**. Water will be accepted only on the dates specified on the list below. Containers for water samples must be obtained from the district office. Water samples must be taken and brought to the Conservation District office on the first Wednesday of the month between the hours of 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. **Samples must be taken on the morning of the testing day.** Take the sample from a faucet that is in regular use, not from a hose or a seldom-used pipe. The tap must be free of hose attachments and other water purification devices. Refrigerate all samples until delivered.

**WATER TESTING DATES** are the **FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month except where noted\***.

|                        |         |             |            |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| January 6, <b>2016</b> | April 6 | July 6      | October 5  |
| February 3             | May 4   | August 3    | November 2 |
| March 2                | June 1  | September 7 | December 7 |

### ***DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING SAMPLES:***

***LEAD*** – If testing for lead, take this sample **BEFORE** any other samples. Take the sample from the faucet where you obtain most of your drinking water. Take the sample in the morning and **BEFORE ANY OTHER WATER HAS BEEN DRAWN.**

***BACTERIA*** – Be sure to collect the sample the morning of the test day. Use the bottle marked for bacteria. ***To get a clearer reading of your groundwater, sample from a non-swivel faucet if possible such as a bathroom sink. If a swivel faucet is used, remove aerator & screen and disinfect the end of faucet by wiping the exterior and inside with bleach (at least a 10% solution).***

Turn on your **COLD** water faucet and leave the water run 3-5 minutes. This is to flush the water through your system that has been setting in the pipes. Let water run for several more minutes if the system has not been used for a week or more. Remove bottle cap but **DO NOT RINSE BOTTLE** (bottle has a preservative in it). **FILL TO THE NECK** of the bottle and cap tightly. Keep refrigerated until delivery. Put bottle back in baggy to ensure sample integrity during transit.

***VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs)*** – Remove aerator from faucet. Clean faucet with a 1 to 1 part of chlorine bleach and water. Next, run the water for 3-5 minutes to flush out the bleach. Adjust the flow of water to get a smooth, steady stream of water about 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch in diameter. Fill each vial by letting the water run down the inside wall of the vial. **FILL THE VIAL COMPLETELY.** Try to make the water “hump-up” above the edge of the vial. Then very carefully screw on the cap and tighten it...**TURN THE VIAL UPSIDE DOWN AND SEE IF ANY AIR BUBBLES ARE VISIBLE.**

If there is an air bubble, turn the vial right side up and remove the cap. **DO NOT EMPTY BOTTLE, just ADD MORE WATER and CAP. CHECK AGAIN FOR BUBBLES.**

***\*RADON*** – Need to fill two (2) 40ml vials and when brought into us, need a separate check for \$75 made out to ALSI (Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc.) There is a four-day hold time. We need to check with ALSI before hand to see if it suits other lab to do testing the Friday after our Wednesday pickup.

Some tests may be combined in the same bottle (Per De/email of 7/12/2011) such as :

pH/turb/TDS/TSS in a 1 liter plastic unpreserved bottle.

Hardness/Metals may be submitted in a 500 ml plastic bottle with HNO3 for this group of test.