

# For Your Peace of Mind...

The Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department is offering **drinking water tests** at a reduced cost in recognition of National Ground Water Awareness Week.

**Your private well sample must be taken on the day of drop-off (April 10<sup>th</sup>) to provide ample processing time and accurate results.**

Bottle pick-up :

- ⇒ Available March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Soil and Water Conservation Dept. located in the Sturgeon Bay Courthouse
- ⇒ Available April 10<sup>th</sup> at the drop-off locations

Bottle drop-off:

Southern Door High School Auditorium Lobby	6:00-11:00 a.m.
Door County Courthouse (SWCD office)	8:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Door County YMCA-Northern Door Program Center	6:00-11:00 a.m.

**Results are confidential and processed at a certified lab!** You can stop in at the SWCD office for help interpreting your results.

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**Bacteria:** Used as an indicator of water contaminated by animal or human waste. Indicates surface water is directly impacting your drinking water. May also indicate the presence of other disease producing organisms in well water.

*SWCD offers test at: \$13.00      State Lab of Hygiene: \$19.50*

**Lead:** Lead is a toxic metal that has been used in construction of most household plumbing systems. Homes constructed before 1985 or that have very soft water are more likely to have lead problems. Also, Door County has had numerous orchard sites where in the past a lead-arsenic mixture was used as a pesticide. Because of the fractured bedrock and shallow soils of the county, lead from the pesticide may contaminate water in certain localities. Excessive levels of lead can damage the brain, kidneys nervous system, red blood cells and reproductive system.

*SWCD offers test at: \$15.00      State Lab of Hygiene: \$28.00*

**Nitrate-Nitrite:** Sources of nitrates include fertilizers, animal feedlots, sewage drain fields, municipal and industrial wastewater, urban drainage and decaying plant debris. Even though nitrates occur naturally in some foods, high levels of nitrates in drinking water pose health threats, especially for infants younger than 6 months. The threat is acute, meaning there could be harmful effects directly from consuming the contaminated water. Nitrites interfere with the blood's ability to carry oxygen and symptoms of suffocation (i.e. Blue baby syndrome) can occur. Studies linking nitrates to cancer are being researched.

*SWCD offers test at: \$12.00      State Lab of Hygiene: \$19.50*

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\*For additional details call 920-746-2214 and ask for Jaime