

## New Program Raises the Stakes for Monitoring Violations

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Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) is launching a new program to reduce total coliform and nitrate monitoring violations at public water systems. Failure to monitor for these acute contaminants creates uncertainty about the quality of water being delivered to customers.

This new program – using the slogan: **Save a Dime. Sample on Time!** – will provide a deterrent to violations and increase public health protection by making it more expensive to fail to sample than it is to sample. It costs an average of \$25 for each total coliform sample and \$20 for each nitrate sample. Beginning January 1, 2014, the new program will include a penalty of \$150 or more for each monitoring violation.

In the past, DDAGW has increased compliance using various educational avenues. A few of our efforts to increase total coliform and nitrate monitoring compliance over the past several years include:

- Mailing monitoring schedules (and making them available on the internet);
- Making personal phone calls;
- Mailing reminder post cards;
- Reminding PWSs at educational conferences; and
- Sending automated reminder phone calls.

DDAGW will include information about the new financial deterrent in the sampling reminders, as one more step toward increasing compliance and further ensuring that Ohio's public water systems are providing safe drinking water. Public water systems have an obligation to know and understand their monitoring schedule, in order to complete timely monitoring and reporting. Any questions about the requirements should be directed to the Ohio EPA district office:

<http://epa.ohio.gov/Districts.aspx>.



**SAVE**  
a dime.

**SAMPLE**  
on time!

**It's not an option. It's your responsibility.**

Ensure confidence in the quality of your water and save money by sampling on time. It costs an average of \$25 for each total coliform sample and \$20 for each nitrate sample. Failing to sample will cost you \$150 or more in penalties for each monitoring violation.

Don't put your consumers at risk.  
Sample on time.

**OhioEPA**  
[epa.ohio.gov/ddagw](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw)