
Drinking Water Safety Testing for Private Water Supplies

Sample Collection Instructions

1. Fill out the top half of the report form, especially **DATE AND TIME OF COLLECTION** or the sample will not be tested.
2. Use the sample bottle(s) supplied by the laboratory. At a minimum, write on the bottle label your name and collection date and time. One bottle is needed for total coliform & *E.coli* testing and one bottle for nitrate testing.
3. To assess overall drinking water quality, collect sample from drinking water tap, avoid leaking faucets and outside hydrants.
4. Remove aeration screens from faucet before collecting sample. If unable to remove, select another tap.
5. Open cold water tap to obtain smooth-flowing stream at moderate pressure without splashing. If water flow not steady, select another tap.
6. Allow water to run to waste at least 2-3 minutes (time sufficient to clear line). Note: For an outside collection site, special tap disinfection (flame or chlorine) and longer flushing (10-15 minutes) is usually required to obtain valid bacterial results.
7. Reduce water flow slightly (to pencil-width) to fill bottle without splashing.
8. Fill bottle to one inch of top and replace cap tightly. **Caution:** Inside sample bottle is sterile – avoid placing fingers inside bottle or cap. Do not place cap down. Do not rinse out bottle(s).
9. Include check payable to the **Hygienic Laboratory** for the tests requested unless the form is stamped "PREPAID" signifying that the analytical fees have already been paid for. Do not send cash.
10. Mail or ship sample bottles immediately after collection (same day collected). Samples must be received within **48 hours** after collection – avoid weekend or holiday mailings. First-class postage, UPS – ground, or other carrier service may be necessary to insure rapid delivery from your area.

For further information contact:



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