

PROPER COLLECTION OF WATER SAMPLE FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

1. Use a sterile sample bottle or select a glass container that will hold at least one (1) pint of water. **
2. If using un-sterile glass container, boil glass jar and lid for ten minutes. Remove jar and lid from water, making sure not to touch inside of jar or lid.
3. Select an appropriate sampling cold water faucet. The faucet you select should not have any leads around the handle, not be a swivel faucet, swing tap or mixing faucet and should not have an aerator. If an aerator is present, remove it before taking the sample, or choose another sample location site. The bathtub, cold water spigot is usually the best sampling site. An outside spigot is acceptable if it is three (3) feet or higher off the ground . The kitchen sink is generally a poor sampling site. **Do not sample through a hose or frost proof faucet.**
4. Determine the distance from the house to the water source. Turn on the cold water and let it run full force an adequate amount of time to clear the pipes and storage unit before you collect the sample. When the water temperature turns colder it is coming from the source.
5. Check and note any home water treatment devices, such as a softner. Water should be sampled prior to treatment.
6. Reduce the water flow to one-third of full force. Chlorination determination is done at this time. If the water tests positive for chlorine (pink color evident when pill is dissolved), the sample cannot be collected.
7. Open sterile sample bottle. Hold the cap with one hand taking care not to contaminate sample.
8. Fill the sampling container leaving about ½ inch of head space, replace the cap immediately. Make sure not to touch the inside of the jar or lid when collecting the sample.
9. Note date, time and sample location on the label.
10. Place sample in a cooler on ice to keep cold during transportation time.
11. Sample must be received in the lab within 24 hours after the sample is collected. Samples received in the lab past the 24 hour hold time will be rejected.

** Sterile containers can be picked up at the laboratory.