

Sampling instructions for your well water package

Water samples must reach the laboratory as quickly as possible. Samples should be refrigerated or put on ice immediately after collection but can not be frozen. Total Coliform samples have a 30 hour hold time. pH samples should be analyzed as quickly as possible after sample collection.

Samples should be delivered to the lab Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm.

Please Note: Carelessness in collecting and handling samples may lead to inaccurate results. Follow these guidelines for reducing possible contamination while sampling.

1. Wash hands thoroughly before taking samples.
2. If you are collecting the sample from a faucet, REMOVE any aerators, screens, hoses or other mechanical devices attached to the outlet. Avoid taking sample from swivel type faucets.
3. Let the COLD WATER run at full force for approximately 2-3 minutes before taking the sample.
4. REMOVE plastic seal completely from the total coliform sample bottle and discard it. Remove cap carefully, holding the bottle in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap or bottle. Sample bottles contain preservatives, including acids and must be handled with care.
5. DO NOT RINSE the bottle with the sample; reduce flow of water and fill the bottle to the neck. Avoid overfilling and splashing. Do not pour off excess sample. Allow space in sample container between the top level of the sample and the bottom of the lid to allow for proper mixing of the sample at the laboratory. **100mL of sample is required for total coliform analysis, ensure the bottle is filled to the 100mL line on the sample container.**
6. Replace cap and close SECURELY, but do not overtighten.
7. Fill the remaining bottle(s) to the neck making sure the caps are securely tightened.
8. Keep samples cool (<6°C) until they are received by the laboratory. AVOID freezing the samples. Frozen samples will be rejected and a resample will be required.
9. COMPLETE the included Chain of Custody Form. Please be sure to include your name, address, a phone number, fax and/or e-mail. Under the project name, write the address where the sample was taken. Under the Sample Identification, write the location where the sample was taken, ie. Kitchen Sink, Well Pump etc. Make sure to include the date and time sampled. Sign the "relinquished by" box and include the date and time that the samples were relinquished.
10. Payment is due when the samples are received at the laboratory.