

Sampling Directions

You are about to sample your well water for the **Rhode Island Department of Health New Well/Real Estate Package** for water quality. The bottle with the plastic outer wrapper is sterile and is for the Total Coliform/E. coli test. The other bottles are for the chemical analyses. The small brown vials with screw caps contain a small amount of acid as a preservative. These bottles require extra care in filling. Please follow the directions carefully to avoid chemical burns. The brown bottles also cannot contain air bubbles. By reading and following the directions carefully you will be able to obtain a sample with no air bubbles.

1. Samples should be collected from any faucet that is normally in use during the day.
2. Turn the **cold** water on at a flow that is not causing any splashing. Allow the water to run approximately 2-5 minutes. This will flush the old water out of the lines and represent water is in the well and not in the piping of the home.
3. Carefully remove the cover to the two white chemical analysis bottles. Fill the bottles carefully to the shoulder of the bottle. It is okay if you slightly overfill past the shoulder. However, do not pour out any of the water. Carefully replace the covers.
4. **For the small brown bottles:** It is better to reduce the flow coming from the faucet to a stream about the size of a pencil. This will ensure a more even filling of the bottle and cause less air to be trapped inside. Carefully fill the bottle until just about full. Now take the cap and fill it. Carefully and slowly pour the water from the cap into the bottle so that the water is almost overflowing. It should appear that the water is forming a bubble on the top of the bottle. Once you have obtained this “bubble” appearance do not pour any more water into the bottle. Dispose of the remaining water in the cap and carefully put the cover on the bottle. Repeat the filling process with the other 2 bottles.
5. Turn off the water and carefully remove the aerator from the tap. Wipe the tap down with the alcohol wipes provided or with standard strength household bleach.
6. Turn the cold water back on and return it to a nice steady flow that is not splashing. Allow the water to run for approximately 1 minute to flush off any excess bleach or alcohol. Carefully remove the outer wrapper of the bacteria bottle and discard the wrapping. Carefully remove the cover of the bottle. Please try to avoid touching the inside of the cap or bottle to any surface or with your fingers. Fill the container with water coming from the tap and carefully replace the cap.
7. Please remember to indicate the date and time of sample collection on the bottle and the enclosed chain of custody. Complete the highlighted areas on the chain of custody. This will ensure that the correct analyses are performed and that the report goes to the correct person. Please include your phone number in case there are problems with the samples
8. Place all samples in the refrigerator or in a cooler until delivery to the laboratory. **Please note:** The bacteria sample only has a hold time of 24 hours and must be delivered to the laboratory before this time expires. The laboratory is open Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm.

Please call if you have any questions concerning the sample collection. (401-785-0241)