

Sampling Directions

You are about to sample your well water for a **Routine Sanitary Survey Homeowner Package** of water quality. The bottle with the plastic outer wrapper is sterile and is for the Total Coliform/E. coli test. The other, white bottles are for the chemical analyses.

Collecting the samples:

1. Samples should be collected from any faucet that is normally in use during the day. However if you have a well treatment system, it is better to sample before the system as close to the well as possible or by bypassing the system if possible. If the faucet has a screen or aerator this should be removed prior to turning on the faucet.
2. After removing any screens or aerators please wipe down the faucet with the enclosed alcohol wipes. This will insure that any bacteria that may be on the outside of the faucet do not contaminate the water entering the bottle by accident.
3. Turn the **cold** water on at a flow that is not causing any splashing. Allow the water to run approximately 5 minutes. This will allow that the water is representative of what is in the well and not in the piping of the home.
4. 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.
5. One at a time, carefully remove the covers to the other 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.
6. 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 complete. 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
7. Place both 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)