

Water Sampling

The laboratory offers sampling bottles, free of charge, to customers at the laboratory. If you would like sampling bottles sent to you, please contact the laboratory. Water samples can be collected using any liquid container, as long as the container has been properly rinsed and contains no contaminants. Containers will not be returned unless previous arrangements have been made with the laboratory.

1. Select a sampling site free of excess contaminants (i.e. excessive dust, rain, snow or rusted faucets).
2. Remove any strainers, aerators, purification or hoses that may be connected to the faucet.
3. Using the cold water faucet, allow the water to thoroughly flush the water lines* (often 2-3 minutes unless testing from a well or lead distribution lines are a concern). A typical indicator of complete flushing is a stabilized water temperature.
4. Rinse the sampling container in the water a minimum of three (3) times. To collect the sample, fill the sampling container until half an inch of air space is left at the top. Do not allow the bottle to touch the faucet or overfill the container.
5. Tighten the container cap to prevent loss of the sample. If the sample is being mailed, seal the cap with tape to prevent leakage.

Samples do not need to be kept cool if delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours.

6. Clearly label all the sample bottles with unique identifiers such as a location or a number. These labels must match the label names used on the submittal form and must indicate the desired test in addition to necessary customer information (i.e. Name, Address, Email, and Phone Number). This form is accessible on our website.
***Hint:** Label bottles using a Sharpie or pen prior to sampling to prevent labels from smearing.

***If a water source has not been used recently (such as in a vacant home) allow the water to run for 1 hour minimum through an outdoor faucet. This allows the wells to flush and will provide a representative sample.**

If a well has recently been disinfected (i.e. chlorinated), make sure all traces of chlorine have been flushed from the well prior to sampling.