

Sampling Procedures for Bacteria

Pure Water Labs, LLC provides water testing as well as sample collection services.

***** If you have questions about any sample collection procedure, please call (608) 225-3621. *****

Sampling requirements that conform to EPA methodology should be followed and the laboratory should be notified if there are any questions. Sample containers and preservatives that comply with EPA methods are provided to our clients at no charge.

In the event that samples are not collected or stored properly, or they have exceeded their EPA recommended holding time prior to submission to the laboratory, a disclaimer is provided in a cover letter that is sent out with the analytical reports. The disclaimer for expired samples reads as follows: "sample invalid please submit another sample."

TAKING A WATER SAMPLE – please read all instructions - *this is a sensitive, sterile procedure*

1. Choose a sample faucet carefully. The sample faucet at your pressure tank is the best choice; otherwise choose a faucet that is closest to where the water enters the premises. A rigid, fixed, unsoftened tap is preferred.
2. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Remove any faucet screens (aerators) or other attachments. If the faucet swings/pivots, once you have started to run water DO NOT move the faucet until you have taken your sample.
3. Run COLD water for 5 –10 minutes at your sample faucet AND at a secondary faucet such as your bathtub or an outside faucet. Turn off your sample faucet but leave the other faucet running – this puts positive pressure on the system and keeps the well pump running.
4. Next spray rubbing alcohol on the end of the faucet and up inside. If you do not have a spray bottle pour some rubbing alcohol into a small cup and hold up on the tap for a *minimum* of 60 seconds.
5. Turn on the COLD water and let run.
6. Carefully remove the sterility seal and unscrew the lid. Do not let fingers touch the mouth or inside of the bottle or cap – the bottle and cap are presterilized. If you must put the cap down, it may be placed top down on a clean surface (e.g. a paper towel)
7. Fill bottle to the shoulder. DO NOT RINSE OUT THE CHEMICAL IN THE BOTTLE (IF PRESENT). It is harmless but used in the analysis procedure. Replace cap securely and place bottle back in box.
8. Samples must be returned to the lab *with payment* within **30 hours** of the time they were collected. Complete the lab slip (DATE, TIME, SAMPLER and SITE ADDRESS) as fully as possible and return with the sample.
*****FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN AN INVALID SAMPLE. *****
9. Sample receipt: laboratory personnel will check the sample to make sure all information on the lab slip is filled out properly, and that the sample is not over 48 hours old from a private well. If information is missing and cannot be confirmed the sample will be INVALID. All samples submitted for bacteria testing will be tested for the presence of chlorine and will be marked INVALID if chlorine is present. If there is any sample remaining, we hold on to the sample for ten days until all tests are run. Results will be emailed to the provided address. If no email is provided, results will be mailed.