

Sampling Procedures For Bacteria Sample

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

1. Choose a sample faucet carefully; this is a sensitive, sterile procedure. The sample faucet at your pressure tank is the best choice; any other rigid – all metal COLD unfiltered faucet is fine. Do not take a sample through a hose or plastic fitting of any kind.
2. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Remove any faucet screens or other attachments. If you are sampling from a mixing type/swing faucet, continue reading the instructions outlined in this step. If you are sampling from a fixed/rigid tap, skip to step #3. Remove faucet attachments such as a screen or splash guard. Run hot water for 2 minutes then cold water for 2-3 minutes. Reduce water stream to a pencil width to flush an additional 2 minutes. After this 2-minute flush collect sample as described below in step 6. (NOTE: Do not use a faucet with an aerator unless the aerator assembly has been removed, or a swing faucet unless it is clean and dry at the base. Once you have started to run water through a swing faucet 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 your bathtub or an outside faucet. Turn off your sample faucet but leave the other faucet running – best to flush out your faucet and take the sample while the pump is running.
4. **OPTION 1:** Use rubbing alcohol wipes to clean the end of the sample tap on the inside and outside as much as possible. 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 in a small cup and hold up under tap for 60 seconds. **OR**
OPTION 2: Flame your sample faucet to "burn the germs" using a propane torch (make sure the faucet does not have plastic parts.) Light it under the faucet, let it burn 10 to 20 seconds, then extinguish the flame. Do not wipe or wash the faucet after flaming. **ITEM:** Always be careful with open flames to prevent burns and fires; if you have questions call our office. Keep children away from any open flames.
5. Turn on the COLD water and let run 5 minutes or so until the water pump kicks on.
6. Carefully remove the cover of the sample bottle. Do not let fingers touch the mouth or inside of the bottle or cap – this is the technical part of the water sampling. If you must put the cap down, it may be placed top down (upside down) on a clean surface (e.g. a paper towel)
7. Fill bottle to one inch from top, the **125ml line**, 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 within **24 hours** of the time they were collected. **YOU MUST FULLY** 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. Bacteria samples received from a Public facility that are over 30 hours old **MUST** be marked Invalid due to age of sample. **IF** information is missing and cannot be confirmed the sample will be **INVALID**. The sample will then be given a lab number and the run according to the tests that are requested. If there is any sample remaining, we hold on to the sample for seven days until all tests are run.