



Homeowner Bacteriological Water Sample Instructions

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Procedures for Bacteriological Sampling

1. If an aerator is present remove the aerator from the faucet using a small pair of pliers.
2. Clean the faucet threads with 5% bleach solution or alcohol on a cotton ball or swab.
3. Open the valve and allow water to run freely for 5 minutes to flush away the cleaning agents.
4. Close valve so that only a small stream flows.
5. Fill out the information on the sample bottle, the bottle should be a **125ml pre-preserved with Na₂S₂O₃**.
6. Open the sample bottle being careful **not to touch the inside of the lid or bottle**.
7. Fill the bottle to **at least the 100ml fill line**.
8. **Do not allow the bottle to overflow**, this will wash out the sample preservative.
9. Place the sample bottle in a plastic bag and seal it.
10. Fill out the chain of custody provided.

11. Return the sample to the lab, the sample must reach the lab within 30 hours of the time it is taken. Samples are accepted at the lab Mon.-Thurs. 8a.m.-5p.m. and

Fri. 8a.m. 12noon unless other arrangements have been previously made. We prefer Monday through Thursday.



Sample Rejection

Samples are **rejected** at the laboratory for any of the following reasons:

1. Incomplete form, **lack of information: date, time collected, sampler's initials or signature.**
2. Bottle does not contain the proper amount of water. The bottle **must be filled to at least the 100ml fill line.**
3. Sample contains more than 15 parts per million of chlorine.
4. **Out of hold time**, the sample is **more than 30 hours old** when it is received at the laboratory.
5. Sample is **not in an approved bottle**