

Sampling Protocol for Drinking Water Testing

Your water test results will be most accurate if you collect the samples following the procedure below. **COLLECT YOUR SAMPLES ON THE DESIGNATED DAY ONLY!** Samples more than 36 hours old when they reach the lab cannot be accurately analyzed for bacteria. *Samples should be refrigerated until you take them to the drop-off site.*

IF YOU ARE TAKING MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF SAMPLE YOU MUST SAMPLE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER!

1. Metals Package
2. Homeowners Package
3. Triazine Sample

1. METALS PACKAGE

The Metals Package bottle is small and rounded, with a blue cap and red tape around the cover. ***This sample should be taken first thing in the morning, before any water is run in your home!!!*** CAUTION: *This bottle contains a strong acid which acts as a preservative. DO NOT rinse the bottle or you will lose the preservative.*

- **Choose a faucet in your home which supplies most of your drinking water.**
- Run the water for only 2-3 seconds.
- Slow the water flow to a trickle and fill the Metals Package bottle to within ¼ inch from the top. **DO NOT ALLOW TO OVERFLOW!!** Avoid splashing when you are filling the bottle. *If you splash acid on yourself, rinse affected area for 5 minutes under cold water.*
- Replace cap TIGHTLY, dry the bottle, and reattach red tape around cover.



2. HOMEOWNERS PACKAGE

The Homeowners Package bottle is rectangular and has a white cover.

- **Choose a faucet where water is not softened or otherwise treated.** Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Remove any faucet screen or other attachments.
- Flame the cold water faucet with a candle or torch. Heat tip of faucet until it is hot to sterilize the faucet. Be sure only metal parts are contacted by flame. *Caution: Some newer faucets are plastic!!*
- Run water for 5 minutes.
- Carefully remove the cover of the Homeowners Package sample bottle. Do not let fingers touch the mouth or inside of the cap. The cap may be placed top down on a clean surface. *Do not rinse bottle.*
- Slow the water stream down until it is about the size of a pencil.
- Fill the bottle within ½ inch from the top. Avoid splashing.
- Replace cap TIGHTLY.



3. TRIAZINE SAMPLE

The Triazine sample bottle is cylindrical and has a blue cap.

- **Choose a faucet where water is not softened or otherwise treated.**
- Run water for 5 minutes.
- *Rinse* the triazine plastic sample container 3 times with tap water.
- Fill the bottle to within ½ inch from the top.
- Replace cap TIGHTLY.

