

Water Sample Collection Instructions

Total Coliform Bacteria and/or Nitrate Nitrogen Analysis**

1. Water sample collection should occur as close to the well as possible, using a point in the water system that is regularly used.
2. To ensure the sample best represents the groundwater source the sample should be collected at a location before the water is treated by a water softener, iron filtration unit, or water heater. If this is not possible, bypass the water softener.
3. Remove all aeration devices (screen) from the faucet.
4. Flame the faucet (only if it is solid metal) until thoroughly heated (approx. 1 minute) by using a small propane torch, a butane cigarette lighter, or a candle (do not use matches to heat faucet). If you are not able to flame the faucet, thoroughly disinfect the faucet opening with rubbing alcohol.
5. Run the cold-water tap for a minimum of 5 minutes.
6. Collect the water sample using the sterile plastic bottle. The bottle is sterile until opened. Take great care not to touch the inside of the bottle or cap. **Fill the sample container completely full and tightly close the lid.**
7. Fill out the information form (on back), and fasten to the bottle with the rubber band.

****Collect and ship the sample to ensure its arrival at the laboratory within 30 hours of collection. Samples which are received after the 30 hour holding time will be considered void, and you will be asked to re-sample.**

Lead Analysis

1. Collect the sample in a 1 liter polyethylene bottle supplied by the laboratory.
2. Collect the first water released from the faucet after the water has been sitting in your pipes for a minimum of 6 hours. It is recommended to collect your sample first thing in the morning. Do not flush the water lines prior to sample collection.
3. Completely fill the bottle in order to collect a representative sample.
4. Fill out the information form (on back) and fasten to the bottle with the rubber band
5. Return the sample as soon as possible to RMB Environmental Laboratories for immediate preservation.

Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, and Hardness

1. Water sample collection should occur as close to the well as possible, using a point in the water system that is regularly used.
2. To ensure the sample best represents the groundwater source the sample should be collected at a location before the water is treated by a water softener, iron filtration unit, or water heater. If this is not possible, bypass the water softener.
3. Run the cold-water tap for a minimum of 5 minutes before collecting the sample in the polyethylene bottle supplied by the laboratory.
4. Completely fill the bottle and tightly close. Fill out the information form (on back) and fasten to the bottle with a rubber band. Return the sample as soon as possible to RMB Environmental Laboratories for immediate preservation.