

PM TESTING LABORATORY

Sampling Guide

Samples must be received at the laboratory within 24 hours of sampling, or test is invalid.

Samples should be delivered to the lab Monday through Thursday.

Samples delivered on Friday will have a 50% surcharge. Samples will not be accepted the day before holidays.

PUBLIC SYSTEMS: If a system ID# and Group letter is provided, a copy of the results will be sent to DOH.

PRIVATE RESIDENCES: Please fill out time, date, and location sampled; include county.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

1. Turn on cold water faucet to get a full stream of water. Let it run hard for 5 minutes to clear the service line.
2. Partially close the cold water faucet until there is a constant stream about the thickness of a pencil. This will prevent splashing that could dislodge bacteria and contaminate the sample. Let the water run for 2 more minutes.
3. Hold the sample bottle near the bottom with one hand and unscrew the cap with the other. Do not touch any part of the cap that touches the bottle. Do not set the cap down. Hold the sample bottle under the stream of water, about an inch below the bottom edge of the water spout. Fill to the fill line or shoulder on the sample bottle.
4. Keep the sample cold until arrival at the lab. The laboratory must receive the sample within 24 hours of collection.

Disinfecting the faucet:

Unless a faucet is visibly contaminated, it is not necessary to disinfect. The sample bottle should not come into contact with the faucet and the water collected should be after several minutes of running. If it is necessary to disinfect, a solution with no greater than 10% bleach can be sprayed on the faucet, but not in excess to cause droplets. Droplets could theoretically drop into sample and interfere with results. Wait for bleach solution to dry before performing sampling procedure.

Samples must be representative of the potable water distribution system. Water taps used for sampling must be free of aerators, screens, hoses, filters and purification devices. Do not sample hot water. When sampling from an outside faucet, select one not surrounded by bushes, plants, or tall grass. Avoid sampling outdoors during strong winds.