



Virginia Household Water Quality Program Sample Collection Instructions



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Important!

- **READ INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE COLLECTING YOUR SAMPLES.**
- **Collect your samples ONLY ON THE DAY YOU DROP OFF SAMPLES AT YOUR DESIGNATED COLLECTION SITE. RESULTS WILL NOT BE ACCURATE IF SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED TOO EARLY.**
- **Do not remove caps from sample bottles until you are ready to take each sample. Fill each of the 4 sample bottles and replace each cap one at a time.**
- **Sample collection instruction VIDEO is found here: www.tinyurl.com/2v4y5dka**

Instructions:

1. Choose the tap or point-of-use for water that you would like to collect samples from. In most cases, the cold water tap where drinking water is obtained is recommended for testing, such as the cold water from kitchen or bathroom. In order to test for metals (lead & copper) that might be in your plumbing system, the water will need to remain in the pipes for at least 6-8 hours. **The night before your scheduled collection day, try not to use any water after 10 P.M. from this tap.** Toilet flushing is permitted.
 2. Collect the samples first thing in the morning, before any water has been used anywhere in the house. Be sure that the sink is clean, and that all dishes and other items are removed in order to minimize splashing. Do not remove the aerator on the faucet.
 3. Find the bottle labeled FIRST DRAW (with an "X" on the cap) and carefully remove the cap, taking care not to touch the inside of the cap or sample bottle. Do not remove the cap from more than one bottle at a time. Do not put the cap down while collecting the sample.
 4. Holding the FIRST DRAW bottle under the faucet, turn the water on, opening the handle as far as you normally would, and fill the bottle completely. Leave as little air as possible in the bottle, without letting the water overflow. Replace cap when full.
 5. While the water is running, wash your hands thoroughly to ensure there is no cross-contamination of the bacteria samples. Allow the water to run at least 1 minute to flush out the pipes.
 6. One at a time, fill the remaining three sample bottles to the top, holding each cap in your hand while you fill the bottle, and taking care not to touch the inside of the caps or the bottles. The plastic shrink wrap on the small clear bottle with white cap should be removed and discarded. Leave as little air as possible in each bottle. After filling each bottle, replace and tighten the cap securely. Repeat with the remaining bottles.
- **Store samples in refrigerator or on ice.**
 - **Complete the Drinking Water Clinic Questionnaire and bring it, with all 4 water sample bottles, to the designated collection site at the designated time on your collection day.**
 - **PLEASE KEEP QUESTIONNAIRE DRY AND SEPARATE FROM BOTTLES.**



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