

# 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 40 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 COLLECT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

## 1. METALS PACKAGE

The Metals Package bottle has a blue cap and red tape around the cover. ***Ideally this sample should be taken first thing in the morning, before any water is run!!!***

**CAUTION:** *This bottle contains a small drop of an 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.**
- Turn the faucet on and adjust to a trickle.
- Allow water to run for 5-10 seconds 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 (ideally a non-swivel metal faucet).** 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 on high **for at least 5 – 10 minutes** (*the goal is to sample water from the well so you may want to let the water run until you hear the well pump turn on or until water gets as cold as it can*).
- Carefully remove the cover of the Homeowners Package sample bottle. Do not let fingers or anything else touch the mouth of the bottle or inside of the cap. *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, make sure that it is on securely.



## 3. DIAMINOCHLOROTRIAZINE (DACT) SAMPLE

The DACT 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 plastic sample container 3 times with water from the tap.
- Fill the bottle to within ½ inch from the top.
- Replace cap, make sure that it is on securely.



Disclaimer: The analyses run on your sample only cover some of the more common water quality characteristics. Safe levels of these chemicals or bacteria do not guarantee that your water is free of all toxic chemicals. If you suspect gasoline residues, pesticides, or other trace chemicals you would need to request additional analyses.

**QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.** Do you have particular questions about groundwater or drinking water quality that you would like more information on?

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