

WATER POTABILITY SAMPLE CRITERIA

Collection, preservation and transport of water samples are critical to the results of water quality analyses. In order to assure sample integrity and accurate results please use the following guidelines when collecting and transporting water for potability testing.

1. Wash your hands thoroughly before water sample collection.
2. Label the collection container (**approved container provided by lab**) with location of sample, date and time of collection. Fill out the collection information sheet provided.
3. Open the tap and allow water to run for 3 minutes prior to sample collection. Do not sample from a tap that allows water to run over the outside area of the tap. If a tap has a mesh screen, aerator, or purification device remove it and allow the water to run for 3 additional minutes. (Fill the cup to the 120 mL (4 oz.) mark, leaving only a small space to allow for mixing with air)
4. Open the sterile container and collect 120 mL (4 oz.) of water. **DO NOT** touch the lip or inside of the sterile collection container with anything but the clean catch water sample.
5. Securely close the collection container.
6. Refrigerate sample immediately after collection. Sample should be transported to laboratory in a cooler.

SAMPLES MUST BE RECEIVED AT LABORATORY WITHIN 24 HOURS OF COLLECTION
Samples will only be accepted Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The lab is closed for all major holidays.

Samples that exceed this criteria will not be processed. Excessive delay in submission of samples may invalidate results.

Attention Residents of Loudoun County: County Health Department Regulations require that a chlorine test must be performed along with potability. This will be an additional \$20 charge.

*****PLEASE NOTE***** Water systems that have been heavily chlorinated may require additional time before testing can take place. Samples with high levels of chlorine will be rejected. The client will be notified that testing will not continue and a sample will have to be recollected when levels are within an acceptable range.

