

Sample Collection and Shipping Instructions

If you have installed new plumbing or if you suspect contamination, TCEQ recommends disinfecting your water supply system prior to sampling. Bacteria could be in your well housing or water lines, which may result in a false positive test for your groundwater. TCEQ recommends the following procedure for disinfecting most wells or cisterns.

For more information, go to <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/safewell.html>

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Submit a sample for bacteriological testing to determine if disinfection was successful.
- Collect samples on the same day you deliver or ship them to LCRA ELS.

TO COLLECT SAMPLES FOR TOTAL COLIFORM:

- Use the small, plastic, 125-mL, STERILIZED bottle.
- Do Not Touch any portion of the inside of the bottle or cap (if possible, use latex gloves).
- Unscrew and remove the aerator screen on your faucet (if present).
- Using a swab with bleach to wipe the inside and outside of the faucet opening. This will eliminate any bacteria present on your faucet which may contaminate your sample.
- Turn on the cold-water faucet, rinse the outside lip well and let it run for about two minutes.
- Remove the cap from the sample bottle (do not set the cap down) and fill the bottle **ONLY TO THE NECK OF THE BOTTLE**.
- Recap the bottle tightly.

TO COLLECT SAMPLES FOR OTHER WATER TESTS:

- Use the larger, 500-mL or 1000-mL plastic bottle.
- Unscrew and remove the aerator screen on your faucet (if present).
- Turn on the cold-water faucet and let it run for about two minutes.
- Remove the cap from the sample bottle and fill one-half of the bottle.
- Recap the bottle and shake a few times.
- Pour all of the water out.
- Then, refill the bottle a second time to the neck of the bottle.
- Recap the bottle tightly.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Carefully complete bottle labels with your name, date and time of sample collection, and the sample location (i.e. well head, kitchen faucet, outdoor faucet, etc.). Place the bottle(s) and **ice** with the completed instruction sheet (inside plastic baggie) in the ice chest. Seal the box and either deliver or ship the kit to:

**LCRA-ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY SERVICES
3505 MONTOPOLIS DRIVE, EL-101
AUSTIN, TX 78744**

We accept samples Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bacteria samples are accepted through Thursday 2 p.m. only. For holiday schedules or questions, call 800-776-5272, ext. 6022 or 512-730-6022, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.