



STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Drinking Water Collection Instructions



DO NOT RINSE OUT THE BOTTLE. DO NOT TOUCH INSIDE THE BOTTLE OR LID.

Bottles are sterile and may contain chemical preservatives.

In case of contact with skin or clothes, immediately rinse with water.

BEFORE SAMPLE COLLECTION



- Freeze any provided ice packs before collecting the water sample. Not all kits will contain ice packs.



- Prepare to ship the sample to ensure its arrival at the laboratory **within 48 hours** of collection. SHL is open Monday through Friday. Plan accordingly for sample delivery during business hours.



- Samples that do not meet temperature or time requirements may not be analyzed, requiring the submitter to resample. If the sample is analyzed, results may be qualified unless the submitter or regulations instruct otherwise.

SAMPLING STEPS

1. Choose a faucet.

- Choose an indoor faucet. Do not collect samples from outdoor hydrants, dirty or leaking faucets, or faucets with swivels or sprayer hoses.

2. Remove the aerator screen.

- Not all faucets have aerators. If there is an aeration screen, remove it. If it does not come off, choose a different faucet.

3. Flush the cold water line.

- Turn the cold water to a moderate flow so it does not splash. Let the water run for 2 – 3 minutes to flush out the line.

4. Reduce the water stream.

- Reduce the water flow to a slow, gentle stream so it does not splash out of the bottle.

5. Fill each bottle to the shoulder.

- Slowly fill the bottle to the shoulder, but not to the top. **Do not** overfill or pour out.

6. Label each bottle.

- Label each bottle with the date, time and location of collection.

7. Chill (ONLY if ice packs were included in the kit).

- Immediately begin cooling the sample. **Do not freeze.**

AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION

Pack the following items:

- **Frozen ice packs.**
Not all kits will contain ice packs. Only include ice packs if they were provided in your kit.
- **Filled and labeled bottle(s).**
Wrap any glass bottles to avoid breakage.
- **Completed Sample Collection Form.**
Note the date, time and location of collection. Place the form in a plastic bag for protection.

Return to the lab within 48 hours:

Mailing/Shipping:

Send immediately by USPS, UPS or FedEx.

In-Person Delivery:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Coralville, Ankeny, or Lakeside Lab

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday
Coralville Lab only



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Drinking Water Collection Instructions

Fill all empty containers included in the kit. Kit contents will vary and bottles may vary in size and appearance. See front page for detailed instructions.

1



Choose a faucet.

Choose an indoor faucet without a sprayer or swivel. Do not use a leaking faucet.

2



Remove the aerator screen.

Not all faucets have aerators. If there is an aeration screen, remove it. If it does not come off, choose a different faucet.

3



Flush the cold water line.

Turn the cold water to a moderate flow so it doesn't splash. Let the water run for 2 – 3 minutes to flush out the line.

4



Reduce the water stream.

Reduce the water flow to a slow, gentle stream so it does not splash out of the bottle.

5



Fill each bottle to the shoulder.

Slowly fill the bottle to the shoulder, but not to the top. **Do not overfill or pour out.**

6



Label each bottle.

Each bottle must indicate the date, time and location of collection or it may not be analyzed.

7

Chill (if ice packs were in your kit).

Do not freeze. If ice packs were included in your kit, immediately begin cooling the sample (refrigerate or pack with ice packs).

8

Pack and send the box (the contents of your kit will vary).

- Frozen ice packs (if they were included in your kit)
- Filled and labeled bottles, placed inside any provided boxes, baggies, or bubble wrap for protection (packaging will vary).
- Completed Sample Collection Form, placed in plastic bag for protection.

