



# STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

## COLLECT FIRST



## Drinking Water Collection Instructions

IOWA WELL SURVEY: METALS



**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

**1**

- Collect the metals sample first in order to obtain “first draw” from an undisturbed pipe.

**48hr**

- 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 collection 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.**

- Sample must be collected from water that has been standing undisturbed in the pipes for at least 6 hours.
- Faucets cannot have point-of-use (attached to the faucet) or point-of-entry (water softeners, RO system, etc.) treatment devices designed to remove inorganic contaminants.
- Sample is to be collected from the COLD water tap in the kitchen or bathroom.

#### 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. **Collect “first draw”.**

- Do not run the water or rinse the container before collection.

#### 4. **Fill each bottle to the shoulder.**

- Slowly fill the bottle to the shoulder, within ½ inch of the top of the bottle. **Do not** overfill or pour out.

#### 5. **Label each bottle.**

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

### AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION

#### Pack the following items:

- **Frozen ice packs.**
- **Filled and labeled bottle(s).**
- **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 using provided UPS overnight return label.

##### **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



# STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

## Drinking Water Collection Instructions

IOWA WELL SURVEY: BACTERIA AND NITRATE

# COLLECT SECOND



**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.**

- Slowly fill the bottle to the 120 mL line or the shoulder, whichever is indicated on the bottle.
- **Do not** overfill or pour out.

#### 6. **Label each bottle.**

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

#### 7. **Chill the bottles.**

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

### AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION

#### Pack the following items:

- **Frozen ice packs.**
- **Filled and labeled bottle(s).**
- **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 using provided UPS overnight return label.

##### **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