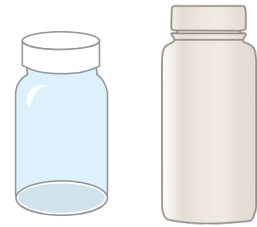


How to Take a Sample: Coliform Bacteria, Nitrates/Nitrites, Partial Chemistry, or Metals

Sample Containers:

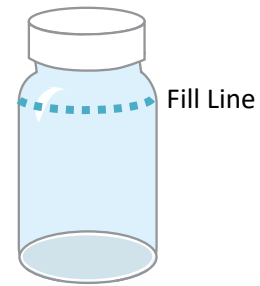
- **Coliform Bacteria:** sterile, sealed bottle with a dechlorinating agent
- **Nitrates/Nitrites:** 125 mL plastic bottle
- **Partial Chemistry:** 250 mL plastic bottle
- **Metals:** plastic bottle, size dependent upon metals requested



Sampling the Coliform Bacteria:

DO NOT:

- **open the bottle** until you are ready to collect the sample.
 - **rinse the bottle**, or remove the dechlorinating agent.
 - **touch the inside** of the cap or bottle.
-
- Use the designated sampling location and run the cold water for five minutes.
 - Turn off the water and disinfect the faucet with chlorine bleach or rubbing alcohol.
 - Run the cold water for an additional five minutes.
 - Reduce the water flow to a pencil-sized stream. Open the bottle and hold onto the cap. Do not let the bottle or cap touch the faucet while sampling.
 - Fill the bottle to the fill line. **DO NOT OVERFILL!**



Sampling the Nitrates/Nitrites OR Partial Chemistry:

- Use the designated sampling location and run the cold water for five minutes.
- Open the bottle and hold onto the cap. Fill the appropriate-sized bottle to the neck.



Sampling the Metals:

- For **Lead or Lead/Copper** sampling, see separate **instruction sheet**.
- For an **individual metal** test, use a **125 mL** plastic bottle.
For a **complete metals** test, use a **250 mL** plastic bottle.
- Use the designated sampling location and run the cold water for five minutes.
- Fill the bottle to the neck.



ALL SAMPLES - After Sampling:

- Label the bottles with requested information.
- Fill out the Chain of Custody form.
- Keep the sample cold, and return it with the Chain of Custody form to the lab within 24 hours of collection.