

Well Water Sampling Instructions

Samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of collection. TG Analytical Laboratory is open Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, please plan accordingly for Sundays and holidays. A drop-off box is located in the back of the building for dropping off samples after hours.

Preparing the Sample Faucet

1. The goal of this process is to find a *representative sample* of the well and not contaminate the water sample.
2. *(for Lead and Copper only)* Do not use the water for at least 6 hours.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water and/or use sterile gloves.
4. Find a faucet as close to the incoming water source as possible. The sample faucet next to the pressure tank is usually the best option. However, any metal/rigid faucet will work. *(Avoid plastic, swing, goose-neck, leaky, chrome and outside faucets)*
5. Remove any faucet aerator, gasket, screen or hose.
6. Sterilize/clean the faucet with a flame and/or isopropyl alcohol. Pour alcohol onto a paper towel and wipe the faucet clean. Hold a flame beneath the faucet opening for 20 seconds, moving the flame around continuously to prevent damage to the faucet. **DO NOT use a flame on chrome or plastic fittings, they will melt.**
7. *(skip for Lead and Copper)* Run the water until cold. Then, run the cold water at a medium force for at least five minutes. Do not change the flow rate or wipe/wash the cap before collecting the sample.



Collecting the sample

Select the sample bottle required for the desired contaminant. If it is not listed below it may require a different type of bottle. Please contact us with any questions. Remove the security seal and the sample bottle cap and avoid touching the inside of any sample bottles or caps. Hold onto the cap while sampling.

Coliform Bacteria

Fill the Coliform Bacteria Bottle (shown on back) to the 100mL line leaving a small air space in the bottle. Recap the bottle.

Lead and Copper

Run the water directly into the Lead and Copper Bottle (shown on back) to within 1" of the top, leaving a small air space in the bottle. Recap the bottle.

Nitrate, Nitrite, Fluoride, Arsenic, etc.

Fill the General Bottle to the top without overflowing. Recap the bottle.

Completing Paperwork and Packing/Returning the Water Sample

1. Complete a chain of custody as fully as possible and return with the sample bottle(s). At least include your name, well address, date and time the sample was taken, and where the sample was taken from.
2. Drop off bottle(s) at our office, deliver to a post office for mailing, or select a shipping service to return the sample directly to TG Analytical Labs. The lab must receive the sample within **30 hours** of collection. Thank you for choosing TG Analytical Laboratories!

Types of Containers

1. Coliform Bacteria Bottle



This 120mL bottle is specifically designed for the collection of water samples for **coliform bacteria**. This bottle includes sodium thiosulfate (either in a white pill form or powder) which deactivates chlorine up to 5ppm helping to ensure the survival of bacteria from sampling to testing. This bottle should only be filled to the 100mL line.

2. Lead & Copper Bottle



This 1,000mL sterilized bottle is used for the collection of lead and copper samples. **Lead and Copper** in water is usually caused by the corrosion of plumbing or equipment. Therefore, the best sample for detection is a “first draw” sample, or a sample taken immediately after the water has been sitting in the plumbing for at least six hours. Collecting 1,000mL of the “first draw” increases the chances of detecting Lead and Copper if it is from the plumbing.

3. General Bottle



This 120mL sterilized bottle is a general purpose container most often used for **Nitrate and Arsenic**. TGA labs can perform multiple tests (including Nitrate and Arsenic) from a single bottle. Generally, use this bottle for testing anything other than Bacteria, Lead, Copper, VOC’s, or Pesticides.

A red mark on the bottom of the bottle is used to differentiate this bottle from the nearly identical coliform bottle.

4. Other Containers

Containers for subcontracted work and more exotic tests will vary over time and require different sampling instructions. However, general types of bottles for VOC’s and Pesticides are shown below.



VOC’s (Volatile Organic Compounds)



Pesticides