

Water Sampling Tips

1. Use a clean, indoor faucet whenever possible. Outside faucets are exposed to many factors (insects, animals, etc.) that could cause a positive bacteria test.
2. Try to avoid threaded taps, leaky or old swing type faucets.
3. Remove any screens/aerators that may be present in bath or kitchen faucets. Cracks, crevices and screens are good breeding grounds for bacteria and are they are hard to sanitize properly.
4. Do not use a dirty or contaminated tap.
5. Disinfect the faucet by spraying bleach on the inside and outside of the faucet and allow the bleach to sit for a few minutes. If you do not have a spray bottle, fill a clean glass with bleach and submerge the faucet in the glass for one minute. Do not use dishrags to wipe the faucet down.
6. Do not sample through a hose or a treatment device.
7. Always sample the cold water.
8. Allow the water to run with the valve open as far as possible for a minimum of 5 minutes before taking the sample. The longer you can let the water run, the better.
9. Do not open the sample bottle until you are ready to take the sample.
10. After running the water for the time specified noted above, turn back the flow and maintain a steady low flow stream to fill the bottle.
11. Take the seal completely off the bottle then open the bottle but do not set the cap down.
12. Do not allow the cap or the bottle to touch the faucet.
13. Do not touch the inside of the cap or bottle.
14. Do not rinse the bottle.
15. Do not breathe directly into the bottle or hold it up near your face.
16. Quickly fill the container to the fill line. Do not overfill.
17. Seal the container as soon as it is filled.
18. Place the sample bottle back into its proper container along with the completed submission form and proper payment. Make check(s) payable to the State of Michigan if using the state lab. (Only one check is necessary if all samples are for the same address and property and sampling point). Please do not fill in anything for DHD2, we automatically receive water sample results from the State lab.
19. Send/transport the samples as soon as possible the same day you take them. If you must take the samples on a Sunday, take them as late as possible that day and keep them cool (refrigerate) over night. Send them out immediately Monday (do not drop in receptacle). The state lab is closed on the weekends, so the samples need to be mailed/shipped early in the week, Monday or Tuesday. The samples have a maximum holding time and if they are not received by the lab by the end of business hours on Friday, the holding time will be exceeded and you will have to resample.