

Proper Sampling Procedures for Bacteria

1. Clear away any potential contamination sources such as debris, dirty dishes, chemicals, etc. from around the spigot. Remove any attachments (aerator, strainer, or hose) if there is one.

Sterilize the Faucet:

2. Remove aeration screen or strainer from inside of cold **water faucet**.
3. Take a quart plastic bag. Fill the bag $\frac{3}{4}$ -full with **water** and add 1 ounce (2 Tbsp) of plain unscented chlorine bleach with at least 5% sodium hypochlorite; do NOT use fresh scent, lemon or other scented chlorine products or additives.
4. Immerse the **faucet** inside the bag. Pull up on the bag until the open end of the faucet is near the bottom of the bag. Hold like this for 60 seconds. This will sanitize the opening and inside the faucet.
5. Remove the bag and empty into drain. **DO NOT** touch the faucet opening.
 - Rubbing Alcohol or Bleach in a spray bottle may be used to disinfect the spigot/faucet. Ensure coverage of spray inside and out.
 - Do not try to flame sterilize the spigot. It does not do any good and can damage the spigot.
6. Let faucet dry for one minute

Flush the Faucet:

7. Turn on the cold water tap from which you will be collecting the sample and allow it to run full force for at least (5) five minutes to clean away possible debris inside of the tap. Monitor the time by a clock or watch—do NOT guess!
8. Complete the bottle label with the submitter name, date, and time of sample collection.
9. Wash hands thoroughly. Try not to splash the faucet, if concerned use a different faucet to wash.



Collect the Sample:



10. Reduce the flow to pencil width and allow it to flow an additional minute at this rate. Check for a steady flow. Do not change the water flow once you have started filling the sample bottle.

11. Grasp the sample bottle around the lower half to reduce the chance of finger contamination.



12. Carefully remove the seal from the bottle.

- **Be careful not to touch the inside of the sterile bottle or cap with your fingers.**

13. Unscrew and remove cap. Hold the bottle in one hand and the cap in the other. Keep opening of cap away from sink splash and facing down. This will protect the cap from falling dust particles or stray droplets. Do NOT lay the cap down or put it in your pocket!

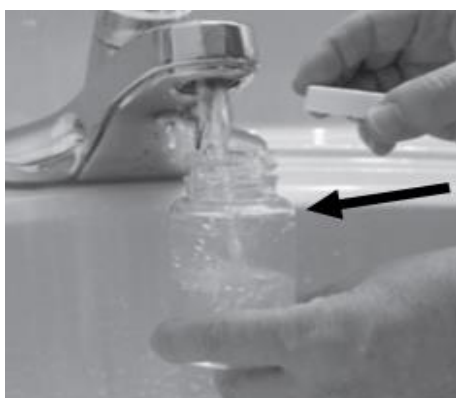


14. Do not rinse out the bottle before collecting the sample!

15. Position the bottle under the water flow **Fill the bottle to slightly above the 100 ml line.**

16. Do not permit the faucet to touch the lip or inside of the bottle.

17. Screw the cap on the bottle. Do not touch the inside of the cap and do not over-tighten.



Samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of collection.