

# REAM & HAAGER LABORATORY

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## Bacteria Sampling

This procedure is recommended by Ream & Haager Laboratory for properly collecting bacteria samples. Failure to follow any step may result in sample rejection or false positive results

Rule #1: You **must** have sterile bottle from the laboratory. (Boiled bottle won't work!!)

Rule #2: You **must** fill out a bacteria sampling sheet with sample information.

### Selecting a Tap

1. A holding tank faucet is preferred. Petcock or small valve is acceptable.
2. Do not sample from hoses or drinking fountains.
3. Avoid taps with leaks at faucet or stem.
4. Avoid taps with **SWIVEL JOINTS**.
5. The nearest tap to the well is preferred if you want to check the **well** for bacteria.
6. Bathroom sink is better than a swivel kitchen sink.

### Sterilize the Faucet

1. Remove aeration screen.
2. Spray chlorine (Clorox) on the faucet inside and outside spigot.
3. Any residual chlorine in sample will cause the sample to be rejected.

### Flush the Tap

1. Turn on cold water tap as fully open as possible.
2. Let run at least 3 minutes.

### Taking the Sample

1. Reduce water flow to pencil width.
2. Remove the sealed cap from container. Do not touch inside lid or mouth of bottle.
3. **Do not rinse bottle out.**
4. Do not remove anything (i.e. powder or pill) from bottle.
5. Fill bottle to at least the 100 ml. line, or ½" from top. Do not overflow bottle.
6. Recap bottle immediately.

### Deliver Sample to Laboratory

1. Deliver sample to laboratory within 24 hours.
2. Submit paperwork with samples including Date & Time of sampling, Sample tap, Name, Address, Phone number & County.
3. **PRIVATE** water supply results are **NEVER** reported to the EPA. They are reported to the person or entity submitting the samples.
4. Public Water Supply Customers must have PWS ID# included. All additional information must accompany the sample or they will not be reported to the EPA. This will result in a violation to the Public Water Supply. We are not permitted to send results to the EPA unless the sampler has all the proper information filled out. No Friday samples!