

Instructions for Collecting Samples for Bacteriological Analysis

The sample must be collected in a sterile bottle supplied by the laboratory, which contains a dechlorinating agent (sodium thiosulfate). Do not rinse the sample bottle if a white crystalline material is visible inside the bottle, this is normal. If the bottle is damaged or the lid is loose, do not use the bottle. Contact the laboratory for a replacement.

When collecting a distribution tap sample, the water in the service line should be completely flushed. Samples should not be taken from drinking fountains or rest rooms. Do not sample from taps surrounded by excessive foliage (leaves and flowers) or taps that are dirty, corroded, or leaking. Never collect a sample from a hose or any other attachment fastened to a faucet. The sample bottle should never come in contact with the faucet. Do not lay the sample container lid down, splatter water on the lid container, or touch the inside of the container or lid.

Sample Collection

Sample should be taken from a frequently used distribution tap such as a kitchen faucet.

Before collecting the sample, you may flame the tap with a cigarette lighter after removing any strainers or aerators and after making sure the faucet will not be damaged by flaming (taps which are plastic may melt under high temperatures). After you flame, let the water run from the tap for 5 minutes. If you do not flame, still let the water run from the tap for 5 minutes.

When taking the sample, let nothing but the water itself come in contact with the mouth of the bottle or inside of the cap. Fill sample container to the line indicated on the side of the bottle. Containers received by the laboratory with less than the indicated amount will be rejected.

Forward all samples to the laboratory immediately after collection. Samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of collection to be reliable.

Complete all information indicated at the top of the form, above the Laboratory Results section.