

# US WATER CONSULTANTS

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Water Conditioning Systems/Water Testing  
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## WATER TEST SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

\*If you would like to test for an odor problem of **rotten egg (sulfide)**, or any item not listed on the back of the information card, please call 893 8833 for specific containers and sampling instructions.

Collect the sample from a regularly used cold water faucet (unless it is leaking or damaged in any way). However, **do not use** a kitchen faucet that has a spray hose that pulls directly out of the faucet housing, and we strongly recommend avoiding swivel faucets if at all possible. The best location is usually a bathroom faucet.

**Basic Preparation:** If the faucet is equipped with a strainer or aerator, remove (with washer) before collecting the sample. If concerned with Lead & Copper coming from your plumbing system, please review the instructions below on Lead & Copper. The following instructions are for testing of the well water itself and will exclude Lead & Copper from plumbing systems. Avoid faucets with leaks, leaking swing faucets, or very old faucets. Clean the faucet with alcohol or bleach and wait for 1-2 minutes if testing will include a bacteria test. Allow water to run for at least 5 minutes before filling container(s). If testing for Radon, allow the water to run for at least 15 minutes to flush out the well tank. If water has not been used recently, (as in the case of a vacation home that is uninhabited for any length of time), allow it to run for 1 hr. minimum through an outside faucet prior to following the steps just described (this will flush the well and allow for a representative sample).

**For most testing**, the sample containers will consist of one large 16 ounce plastic bottle (this is for minerals) and one smaller sealed plastic container (this is for bacteria testing only). Do not touch the inner surface of the cap or mouth of the bottles. Collect the sample, filling to the top (4oz./100ml minimum) of the sterilized bacteria sample container. Fill the tall container for minerals to within ½ inch of the top.

**Lead & Copper:** If concerned with Lead & Copper in water due to plumbing corrosion (the most common source of lead & copper), a separate container will be needed for a “first draw” sample. This is performed by filling the container **without running the water at all** after water has been sitting stagnant in the pipes for 6-10 hours. This is normally accomplished by filling the container first thing in the morning, or after a work day, prior to running any water in the home. The test kit does not include a separate container for this purpose. A clean plastic container is needed for this test – a spring water container that has been rinsed with your water several times can be used. If performing this sampling, please refer back to the “Basic Preparation” above for any other testing required.

**If testing for RADON or VOC's/MTBE**, a specific small glass vial is required for sampling. Two vials will be necessary if both Radon and VOC's/MtBE will be tested. The vial(s) must be filled to the very top without any air bubbles at all. This is accomplished by slowly filling the vial to near the top, then slowing the water flow down to a drip to fill the last bit. Allow the water to fill to just before overflowing, so that the water actually appears slightly higher than the rim of the vial. While holding completely upright, cap the vial tightly. Assure that there are no air bubbles by turning upside down and tapping gently. If any air bubbles rise up, even tiny ones, empty the vial and try again.

**Deliver sample(s) to the laboratory** as soon as possible after sampling. **The water must be analyzed within approximately 24 hours if your testing includes Total Coliform / E.coli bacteria.** Samples should be refrigerated after sampling and transported in a chilled cooler. If returning by mail, do so in a manner that will assure delivery of the sample within approximately 24 hours from collection if testing includes Total Coliform / E.coli bacteria. If not testing for bacteria, regular US mail will be sufficient.

Samples may be brought into the laboratory Monday – Friday (8:00 am –5:00 pm) or placed in the cooler outside our entrance before or after office hours any day of the week. Samples may also be placed in the cooler on weekends, but should be placed very shortly after sampling, as the cooler may not be checked for up to 24 hours on weekends. Please be sure to completely fill out both sides of the enclosed card. **Unless you have an established credit account with the Laboratory, payment must accompany the samples at the time they are dropped off. We accept checks, cash, Visa and Mastercard.**

**If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 893 8833 – we are here to help you! Thank you for using US Water Consultants for your water testing!**