

WATER BACTERIA ANALYSIS

- How to Sanitize, Collect and Submit Samples

Please use a 100 ml plastic sterile bottle from our Lab

Selecting a Tap (always use cold water)

1. For irrigation water, sample at the point where it contacts produce (Run 20 Min.).
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 faucet is better than a swivel kitchen faucet, if you are testing the water you are drinking (use cold water faucet or hydrant inside packing house).

Sterilize the Faucet

1. Remove aeration screen from inside of cold water faucet.
2. Take a quart plastic bag. Fill 3/4 full with water and add 1 ounce of unscented 5.25% available chlorine bleach into bag.
3. Immerse the faucet inside the bag. Pull up the bag until the open end of the faucet is against the bottom of the bag. Hold like this for 60 seconds. This will sanitize the opening and inside of the faucet.
4. Remove the bag and empty into drain - **Do Not** Touch the faucet opening.

Flush the Tap

1. Turn on cold water faucet fully open as possible.
2. Let run 3 minutes minimum, up to 6 minutes until constant temperature is reached.

Taking the Sample

1. Reduce water flow to pencil width. (Ready for plastic sterile bottle.)
2. Remove the plastic seal (discard) and cap from bottle. **Do Not** touch inside cap or mouth of bottle.
3. Continue to hold cap in fingers. **Do Not** lay on counter etc.
4. Do not rinse bottle out. Leave the white powder residue inside.
5. Fill bottle to the line marked 100 ml. Do not under/over fill bottle.
6. Immediately recap bottle tightly, and keep the sample cool. (about 35° to 47° F.)

Submitting Samples

1. Label the bottle with your name and a sample description.
2. Complete the Sample Information Form. (Print name, address, test desired, etc.)
3. Return your water sample(s) with an ice pack. This must be a water-based ice pack (frozen water is best to lower the temperature to preserve the bacteria sample). **Do Not** use the gel filled reusable ice packs. **DO NOT FREEZE THE SAMPLE BEFORE SUBMITTING.** Include the Sample Information Form, and payment to Holmes Laboratory in a cardboard box for protection during shipping.