

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING TIPS

CAREFULLY FOLLOW ANY INSTRUCTIONS (FURNISHED BY YOUR LABORATORY) SENT TO YOU WITH THE SAMPLING CONTAINERS.

- Consider the weather conditions if using outside taps, as samples should not be collected during inclement weather conditions (raining, snowing and windy conditions) if possible.
- Do not sample from hoses or any attachments fastened to the faucet. Remove any strainers, aerators (and any associated rubber washers), or hoses before collecting the sample.
- Do not sample from dirty, corroding or leaking taps. Taps designated as sampling points should be clean and in proper working condition.
- If the faucet is 100% metal, consider using a lighter or torch to flame the tap.
- Next, or if faucet is not 100% metal, thoroughly disinfect the tap with isopropyl alcohol (*once the metal is cool enough not to ignite the alcohol*) or a Clorox/water mixture. It is highly recommended to use a dedicated spray bottle to apply the solution and eliminate contact with the tap.
- Let the water run for 5 minutes before collecting the sample.
- If this is a regulatory sample, you may collect the free chlorine residual measurement at any time during the 5-minute flushing process.
- Adjust the water flow until there is a gentle stream.
- Only collect samples in the bottles supplied by the laboratory to avoid potential contamination.
- After flushing the line (and if regulatory, determining the residual chlorine) break the seal on the sample bottle.
- Hold the bottle by the base ONLY. Hold the lid by the outer rim ONLY.
- Do not let the bottle come in direct contact with the faucet.
- Do not lay the sample container LID-DOWN on to any surface or touch the inside of the bottle or lid. Do not put the lid in your pocket.
- Do not talk while collecting your sample. If you sneeze or drop the bottle while it is open, use a fresh bottle. Always have an extra sample container on hand if needed.
- Do not splatter water on to the lid or container.
- Fill the bottle to the 100 ml line (do not under- or over-fill the sample bottle). Carefully replace the lid.
- Fill out the chain-of-custody (COC) form and place both the sample container and COC form in a plastic Zip-Loc bag to prevent possible cross-contamination from other samples.