

How to Sample Drinking Water

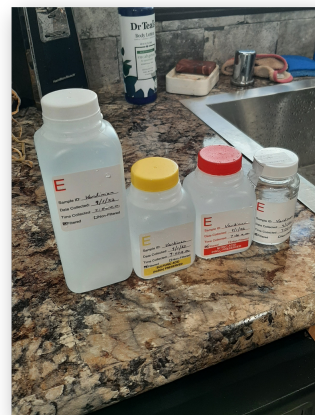
Step 1: Collecting a sample

1. Use a container provided by the laboratory.
2. Read and follow all laboratory instructions for collecting water samples for specific tests.
3. Open the cold-water tap (or hydrant) and flush by letting the water run at full force for 5–6 minutes.
4. Do not contaminate the bottle during collection.
Do not let anything touch the top/inside of the open bottle or cap.
Do not rinse or wash the bottle. Some containers will contain preservatives which protect the integrity of the sample.
5. Adjust the tap to a slow and steady stream to prevent splashing.
6. Collect a 100ml of water for the sample without touching the bottle to the faucet.
7. Securely replace the cap.



Step 2: Preparing sample

8. With a permanent marker, label containers with your identification system.
9. Package containers and completed analysis form in a sturdy box and mail to laboratory.



When in doubt on how to sample – check the lab's directions for sampling and submission, they usually provide them online.

General Information

- Contact the laboratory prior to sampling to obtain the proper container, sampling instructions for the specific contaminate or use, and shipping instructions.
- Do not collect samples in reused containers.
- Most water samples are collected at the kitchen faucet since this is where most water is used for drinking and cooking.
- Drinking water standards are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations>.

When to test a Well

- It is recommended to test a well annually for coliform and E. coli bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels.
- Also consider testing a well if:
 - You notice a change in water quality (taste, color, odor, etc.)
 - There are known problems with well water in your area
 - You have experienced problems near your well (flooding, chemical spill, land disturbance, etc.)
 - You replace or repair any part of your well system, which may contaminate the water during these activities.

Drinking Water Laboratories

Wyoming Public Health Laboratory Combined Laboratories Facility

208 South College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7431

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/lab/water/>

***Pace Labs**

1673 Terra Avenue
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 672-8945

<https://www.pacelabs.com/>

***Wyoming Analytics Laboratories**

21660 Harrison St.
Laramie, WY 82070
(307) 742-7995

***Energy Laboratories**

2393 Salt Creek Highway
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 235-0515

<https://www.energylab.com/>

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

1174 Snowy Range Road
Laramie, WY 82070
(307) 742-2984

<https://agriculture.wy.gov/divisions/asl>

Precision Labs

29 Country Acres Rd
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-0866

*Designates a lab that has multiple locations in the state or nation