

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

Chemical Water Analysis

Be sure and read all instructions in this brochure as well as on the lab requisition form prior to sampling.

1. **DO NOT** open the bottle until ready to take the sample.
2. Protect the sterilized bottle from contamination.
 - **DO NOT** set cap down, touch the inside of the cap or bottle
 - Use only the special bottle available from your Regional Health Authority or Laboratory.
3. If water is collected from pump or tap allow water to flow for about five minutes before taking sample.
4. Fill the bottle completely and cap **tightly**.
5. Be sure to include on the requisition form:
 - name, complete mailing address & phone number
 - legal land description
 - source of water sample
 - well depth
 - collection site
 - reason for sampling
 - date and time of collection
 - sample collected by
6. Drop off samples at one of the local health centres listed on this page (phone for days and times) or directly to the Centre for Toxicology,

University of Calgary as soon as possible following collection.

The Toxicology Laboratory in Calgary will perform routine analysis of drinking water for human consumption from a raw water supply **ONLY**.

Chemical analysis **WILL NOT** be performed on the following sources:

- Municipal (licensed) water supplies
- Water for mortgage approval
- Bottled water
- Water from private contractors (including water well drillers)
- Water collected outside of the Province of Alberta
- Water from other Government agencies

Please be sure to contact the closest office for drop-off dates and times for bacteriological or chemical water analysis.

Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health Services office.

Edmonton Main Office	(780) 413-7928
Capital Health Centre - South Tower	(780) 735-1400
Strathcona	(780) 467-5571
Spruce Grove	(780) 962-7509
Leduc	(780) 980-4644
St. Albert	(780) 459-6671

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Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

Evaluating Private Drinking Water Supplies and Sampling Instructions



 **Capital Health**
EDMONTON AREA

GENERAL INFORMATION

A full evaluation of a private water supply involves sampling for both bacteriological and chemical analysis.

Bacteriological and chemical analysis and the evaluation of results against established standards are essential for determining the initial and ongoing safety of drinking water. Other factors such as appearance, odor and field knowledge also assist in determining the presence of potential contamination or existing pollution.

A bacteriological analysis should be performed quarterly, or when contamination of the water supply is suspected. Bacteriological analysis includes the presence of total coliforms and *E. coli*.

A chemical analysis should be performed on all new, redeveloped or unregistered wells and re-sampled annually. Chemical analysis includes seventeen parameters as outlined in the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.

It is recommended that parents with newborn babies or young children submit drinking water samples for both analyses.

Well water samples are NOT accepted for mortgage purposes, livestock consumption, Giardia analysis, fish disease or algae analysis, or to check

the effectiveness of water treatment equipment.

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

Bacteriological Samples

All bacteriological samples must be tested within 24 hours of collection to obtain accurate test results.

Special sample containers and requisition forms are available directly from the Provincial Laboratory or one of the health centres listed on the back of this information brochure.

Where a delay of more than 6 hours is unavoidable, the sample should be chilled (not frozen) until it reaches the Laboratory. Samples received more than 24 hours after collection are unsuitable for examination and will not be tested.



SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

Bacteriological Water Analysis

Be sure and read all instructions in this brochure as well as on the lab requisition form prior to sampling.

1. **DO NOT** open the bottle until ready to take the sample.
2. Use a cold water tap without a screen or remove the screen prior to sampling.
3. Let the cold water flow for about five

minutes before taking the sample.

4. Be sure to include on the requisition form:
 - name, complete mailing address & phone number
 - legal land description
 - source of water sample
 - collection site
 - reason for sampling
 - date and time of collection
 - sample collected by
5. Protect sterilized bottle from contamination.
 - **DO NOT** set cap down, touch the inside of the cap or bottle
 - **DO NOT** rinse or empty the contents of the bottle (i.e. powder)
6. Wash hands with soap and water prior to sampling.
7. Remove the cap and carefully fill the bottle to the 200 ml mark, remembering not to contaminate the cap.
8. **ON THE SAME DAY**, drop off samples at one of the local health centres listed on the reverse (phone for days & times) or directly to the Provincial Laboratory of Public Health at the U of A Hospital in Edmonton.

