

Types of Containers



Coliform Bacteria Bottles - This 120 ml bottle is designed for the collection of water samples for coliform bacteria. This bottle contains sodium thiosulfate (either in a white pill or powder) which deactivates chlorine up to 5 ppm. This bottle should be filled to at least the 100 ml line or above and returned to the lab within 24 hours of sampling. **Note:** Insufficient volume will be flagged.

See below for detailed instructions for sampling coliform bacteria.



Lead and Copper Bottle (1 L) - This one liter opaque bottle is used for the collection of lead and copper samples. Lead and copper in water is usually caused by the corrosion of plumbing or equipment. Therefore, the best sample for detection is a **"FIRST DRAW"** (the water should stand motionless in the plumbing for a minimum of 6 hours before the sample is collected).

After the water has been sitting in the plumbing for at least 6 hours, collect sample immediately in a one liter bottle provided. Collect from the cold water tap in either the kitchen or bathroom filling to the neck. Sample must be received by the lab within 14 days of sample collection.



General Bottle (250 ml) - This 250 ml opaque bottle is a general purpose container most often used for **Nitrate and Arsenic**. White Water Associates can perform multiple tests from this single bottle, or we may need more than one of these.

EXCEPT: Coliform Bacteria, which requires the above shown sterile bottle, and Lead and Copper for residential testing requires a one liter bottle.

Fill the General Bottle from cold water tap to the top without overflowing. Recap the bottle.

Bacteria Sampling Instructions

- Sample must be taken from a tap closest to the water source (before water softener).
- Water tap must be free of aerators, strainers, hoses, filters, etc.
- Disinfect the water tap with bleach or alcohol in a shallow glass for 1-2 minutes.
- Wash hands thoroughly, do not open sample bottle until ready to proceed.
- The COLD water tap must be used. Run the water for at least 2 minutes.
- Do NOT touch the inside of the sample bottle or cap. Do NOT set cap down on any surface.
- Do NOT rinse sample container (white pill or powder is needed for coliform test).
- Fill sample container to just over the 100 ml line. We have to flag if under 100 ml.
- Place bottle and Chain of Custody (COC) Form in mailing packet to send to lab with check for payment made out to White Water Associates.
- For tests that require the small insulated boxes please add ice, in a small sealable bag.

The sample collector is responsible for packaging and returning the samples to the laboratory for analysis. All samples collected for bacteria testing, must be received by the laboratory within 24 hours. This means you must send your sample the same day you collect it. Do not mail on a Saturday or when the next day is a holiday. Use Priority Mail U.S. Postal Service.