

Types of Containers

Standard Turnaround time (TAT) is a minimum of 10 business days, and seasonal load may delay results. RUSH may be available upon request at an additional cost.



Lead/Copper/Test Kits Bottle (1 L) – This 1 L 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 – This opaque bottle is a general purpose container most often used for Nitrates (125 mL) or Nitrites and Arsenic (250 mL). White Water Associates may be able to perform multiple tests from the 250 mL bottle, but depending on the tests we may require more.

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

For tests requiring insulated boxes, fill included ice bottle to line and freeze overnight or fill remaining space with ice in a sealable bag. For Public Water Systems, we must reject Nitrates if not received at proper temperature or not on ice under 24 hours from sampling.



Coliform Bacteria Bottles – This 120 mL bottle is designed for collecting water samples for Coliform Bacteria/E. coli. The bottle contains sodium thiosulfate (a white pill, powder, or liquid), which deactivates chlorine up to 5 ppm. See sampling instructions below.

Attention: If your water still smells chlorinated, please wait and collect sample after it clears up. Highly chlorinated samples may be rejected and a new sample will need to be submitted.

Bacteria Sampling Instructions <https://white-water-associates.com/PDF/Sampling-for-Coliform-Bacteria-in-Drinking-Water.pdf>

- 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, turn down flow to the thickness of a pencil, then run for another 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, powder, or liquid is needed for coliform test).
- Fill sample container over the 100 mL line, but below the neck. Insufficient volume will be flagged.
- You are encouraged, but not required, to keep sample below 10°C (50°F) during transit to the lab.
- Try to protect sample from direct sunlight.
- Place bottle and completed Chain of Custody (COC) Form in mailing packet to send to lab with check for payment made out to White Water Associates.

All samples collected for Coliform/E. coli testing and Nitrates must be received by the lab 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.

