



## SAMPLE COLLECTION

Accurate results  
start with proper  
sample collection

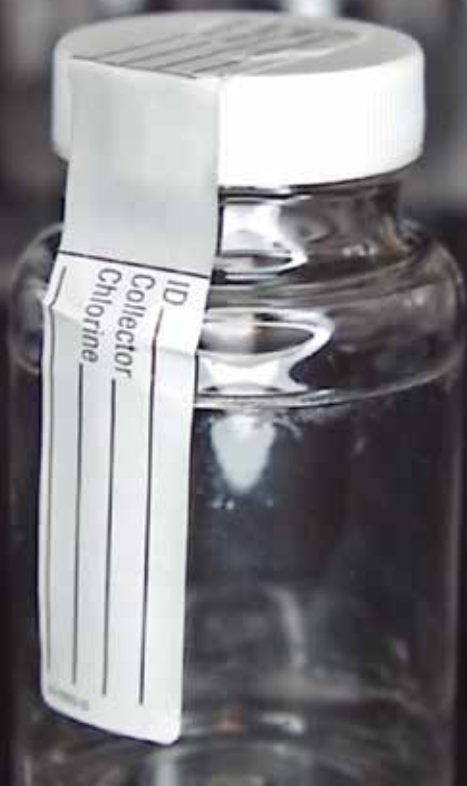


**IDEXX**

# Test your well water at least annually

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both recommend having your private well water tested annually as water quality can change over time. Your certified laboratory will perform tests to look for harmful bacteria and other contaminants to determine the safety of your water.

Contact your laboratory or your local health department for a complete list of recommendations.



# Why proper sample collection is important

Regular water-quality testing is important to ensure that your water supply is safe, properly maintained, and protected from potential contamination. Testing begins with sample collection in your home, office, or other location. There are some common best practices to keep in mind when collecting a water sample.

This brochure is intended to provide basic instruction, but you should always check your testing laboratory's recommendations for specific sample collection procedures.

Water samples that are improperly collected may give inaccurate test results and trigger additional rounds of testing.

## Sample collection tips

**Avoid cross-contamination:** Be sure to wash your hands with soap and warm water prior to handling the collection bottle.

**Prepare to collect:** Remove any filters, faucet screens/aerators, or any other water treatment equipment. For bacteria testing, it is recommended to disinfect the faucet by dipping it in rubbing alcohol or bleach.

**Run the water:** Prior to collection, run the cold water for 2–3 minutes from the tap.

**Handle carefully:** Take care not to touch the bottle opening or the inside of faucet. **DO NOT RINSE** the bottle out. Often there will be a preservative included in the bottle (in the form of white residue or crystals) that is needed for the laboratory test.

**Collect your sample:** Fill the bottle to the level indicated or as directed by your laboratory. Replace the cap and tighten.

**Keep it cool:** In most cases, samples need to be kept cool and should be delivered to your laboratory as soon as possible. Samples that get too warm, freeze, or sit too long may give inaccurate test results. Holding times and temperatures vary by test, so refer to your testing laboratory for specific guidance.

**Fill out the paperwork:** Complete all sample identification paperwork provided by the laboratory.



## Trust the industry leader

Your laboratory uses industry-leading tests from IDEXX to detect bacteria such as *E. coli*, total coliforms, enterococci, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Legionella pneumophila* in your water sample. Over three decades of independent studies have consistently demonstrated that IDEXX tests provide superior accuracy and performance when compared to other laboratory testing methods.<sup>1</sup>

IDEXX tests are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and manufactured in Westbrook, Maine. IDEXX is proud to protect water quality and safeguard public health in communities worldwide.



ISO **9001** CERTIFIED  
ISO **14001** CERTIFIED

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#### **Reference**

1. Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Westbrook, Maine USA.

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