

WELL WATER SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS:

A well water test kit can be purchased in Room 100 of the Fulton County Health Dept. any day Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The \$20.00 fee covers shipping and testing.

All water samples must be collected on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday and brought to Room 100 by 1:30 p.m. on the same day they were collected. (Make sure it is not a holiday.)

Note: If chlorine is detected in the sample, the sample will be discarded by the lab.

Where to Collect the Sample:

- Take from a faucet that does not swivel. Do not use a kitchen faucet! Usually a bathroom sink or bathtub faucet is the best place to collect the sample.
- If the faucet has a screen, it will need to be removed prior to collecting the sample, because it may contain bacteria.

Prepare the Faucet:

- Remove the screen from the faucet (if there is one)
- Wash your hands, then dry them on a clean towel.
- Use an alcohol wipe to clean the inside and edges of the faucet where the water comes out. Alternatively, flame the end of the faucet with a lighter to kill bacteria that may be on the faucet. Note: Make sure the faucet contains no plastic before flaming it.
- Turn on the cold water and let it run for a while to get fresh water from the well. Do not run on full pressure -- a steady stream is best.

Collect the Sample:

- Turn on the cold water faucet to a pencil-thin stream. Remove the seal from the collection bottle.
- Remove the lid and hold in one hand while using the other hand to hold bottle to collect the water sample. Do not lay the lid down or touch the inside of the lid or inside the bottle.
- Fill to the top line on the bottle with cold water.
- Replace lid tightly on the bottle.

Complete the form that came with the bottle, including the sampler's name and the time the sample was collected. Be sure to provide your correct mailing address at the bottom of the form if it is different than the address where the water sample was collected. Place the form inside the box with the sample.

Take the sample to Room 100 of the Fulton County Health Department on the same day it was collected **(must be a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday), before 1:30 pm.**

The sample will be tested for coliform (a bacterial indicator) and *E. coli* bacteria. Results will be mailed to you in 7-14 days.

Questions? Call 309-647-1134, Ext. 230

A water test kit for nitrates and nitrites may also be purchased from the Fulton County Health Department for \$50, which covers shipping and analysis at a private lab. Elevated nitrates in drinking water are generally only a concern for infants and pregnant women.