

# Home & Horticultural Water Sampling Guide

Provided by: A&L Great Lakes Laboratories, Inc.  
www.algreatlakes.com

---

- I. Sampling Procedure for Drinking Water Compliance Samples
- II. Taking Water Samples (Lead or Copper)

## I. Sampling Procedure for Drinking Water Compliance Samples

### Procedure:

The sample must be collected in the container provided by A&L Great Lakes Laboratories, Inc. This container has been pre-sterilized and contains Sodium Thiosulfate to inactivate any residual chlorine present in the sample. **DO NOT** rinse the sterilized container.

### How to Collect:

When collecting the sample, fill the bottle to the 100 ml line. Keep the sampling bottle closed until it is to be filled. **DO NOT** touch the inner surfaces of the cap or bottle. **DO NOT** rinse the sterilized container.

### Potable (Drinking) Water:

1. If the sample is to be taken from a distribution-system tap with attachments, select a tap that has a service pipe directly connected to the main, not a pipe that is served from a cistern or storage tank. Open the tap completely and let the water run for 2 to 3 minutes to allow the line to be cleared of standing water. Reduce the flow of water and fill the sample container within an inch of the top.
2. When sampling from a mixing faucet, remove faucet attachments such as screen or splash guards, and then run the cold for 2 to 5 minutes and collect sample as above.
3. For samples taken from a well fitted with a hand pump, pump water for 5 minutes before collecting sample. If the well has a mechanical pump, collect the sample from a tap.

### Raw Water Supplies:

1. In collecting samples directly from a river, stream, lake, spring, reservoir, or shallow well, obtain samples representative of the water that is the source of supply to customers.
2. **DO NOT** take a sample too close to the bank or too far from the point of drawoff.
3. Take the sample by holding the bottle near its base and plunging it, neck downwards, below the surface. Turn the bottle until the neck points slightly upward and the mouth is directed toward the current. If there is no current, create a current by pushing the bottle forward horizontally in a direction away from the hand. If the sample is being taken by boat, collect sample from the upstream side.

### Shipping of Sample:

1. The sample should be kept cool in transit and shipped so that it reaches the laboratory within 24 hours of collection time. Be sure to supply adequate packing material when using glass bottles. Bio-mailers are available from the laboratory.

2. Completion of the submittal form is mandatory in order for a sample to be valid. A sample that is not accompanied with this sheet will be rejected. **Submittal forms may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.algreatlakes.com>.**

## II. Taking Water Samples (Lead or Copper)

1. Sample at the kitchen faucet or wherever most drinking water is taken from.
2. The sample should be collected first thing in the morning, before anyone has drawn water. If the W3 or coliform test is being run, a separate sample should be taken for the lead or copper.
3. Fill the 1 pint container directly from the faucet without allowing the water to run first.
4. Transport the sample to the lab as soon as possible.