



## INSTRUCTIONS

***First-time customers, please call first (in evenings 804-520-4807)***

***to review instructions and to alleviate the need to resample or make multiple trips.***

**First time & infrequent clients: prior to collecting sample, please email us to coordinate delivery.**

Samples are normally accepted Sunday through Thursday; reports are issued Monday through Friday. Deliver samples by 7 pm of the day collected. Contact us for after-hours and weekend availability. The bacteria test requires 24-hour incubation; test is started the evening of sample delivery, and results are sent the next evening

***PAYMENT is due with sample.*** Check, cash, or money order. Payable to Biotech Lab. No credit cards.

### **BACTERIA = \$50**

Presence/absence test for **Total Coliforms** and ***E. coli***.

Total coliforms are an indicator of environmental contamination.

*E. coli* is an indicator of fecal contamination.



sterile container

### CHEMICAL:

#### **Lead = \$50**

#### **Nitrate, Nitrite**

**\$25 per test**

Alkalinity, Copper, Manganese, pH, Sulfate, Iron (total and soluble)

Conductivity / Total Dissolved Solids, Tannins (for organic matter)

Hardness (calcium plus magnesium)    **\$25 per test**



water bottle  
(chemical sample)

*\* For loans/property transfers, check with your loan officer on tests required and 3<sup>rd</sup> party collection.*

***Lead, nitrate and nitrite are often required for property transfers, esp. VA loans (in addition to bacteria).***

For a bacteria test and chemical tests, submit 2 samples (sterile container + water bottle, see item 1 under each instruction).

### **SAMPLE COLLECTION – ALL SAMPLES**

Water samples  $\geq$  10 ppm chlorine will be rejected. Wait at least 5 days after sanitizing a well before collecting the water sample. If you smell chlorine, the level is too high.

### **SAMPLE COLLECTION - CHEMICAL ANALYSIS**

1. Use a clean, 6-12 oz drinking water bottle (that has only contained water). You may obtain one from our large cooler labeled Chemical Bottle Supply, on the ground behind the dropbox.  
[Do not use one of our sterile containers for a chemical sample, or sample will be rejected.]
2. **LEAD analysis.** We recommend using the kitchen faucet for a lead test. The goal is to check the plumbing to see if lead is leaching into the water, specifically the drinking water in the kitchen. The lead test, to be valid, must be a 'First-Draw' sample, i.e. it is collected before any other use of the water in the morning. The night before sampling, flush the faucet and the line for 15 minutes. Rinse the sample bottle 3 times with the water from that tap. Allow the sample bottle to drain and dry. DO NOT USE the water overnight.  
The next morning, before using the water for any other purpose, collect the sample.
3. If the sample will be tested for chemicals other than lead, a 'First-Draw' is not required.
4. Rinse the sample bottle 3 times. Collect the sample.
5. See instructions 3-5, & 7 on the other side. Place sample in small cooler, in the dropbox.

## READ **BEFORE** COLLECTING SAMPLE

***First-time customers, please call first (in evenings, 804-520-4807) to review instructions and to alleviate the need to resample or make multiple trips.***

***Deliver sample the same day as collected.***

*Visit our website for pictures of each step: [biotechlabwatertesting.com/our-process](http://biotechlabwatertesting.com/our-process)*

### **SAMPLE COLLECTION - BACTERIA ANALYSIS**

1. You must use a sterile sample container provided by BioTech Lab (from our dropbox on post, or some Health Depts). The plastic shrink wrap seal must be intact prior to sample collection.
2. Sample Collection Procedure:
  - a. ***Sanitize faucet.*** For outdoor faucet: flame with butane lighter or plumber's torch for 1-1½ minute (allow to cool for a few minutes before running water, esp. in cold weather). For indoor faucet: wipe or spray with 10% bleach or at least 70% rubbing alcohol, let stand 20 minutes.
  - b. ***Flush line at least 20 minutes*** (to cycle & flush the pressure tank) before collecting sample. This is especially important for a vacant house. For an outdoor faucet, run bathtub first if possible and then run faucet for several minutes. Avoid splash-back once outdoor faucet is sanitized.
  - c. Tear off shrink wrap seal surrounding the cap of the sample vessel and dispose. Be sure to remove the entire shrink wrap seal.
  - d. Unscrew the cap and hold by the outside surface. Do not contaminate the cap; do not place fingers inside the cap. **DO NOT RINSE THE CONTAINER.**
  - e. Fill the container **TO THE NECK** leaving an air space. See diagram on top of form. **TOO MUCH WATER IS BETTER THAN NOT ENOUGH.** Sample will be rejected if the level is too low. (Ignore the line. If you choose to focus on the line, fill water ½" ABOVE the line.)
  - f. Securely tighten the cap immediately after filling and invert to dissolve the tablet/powder.
3. Complete one [Request for Analysis](#) form for each property address. Include all information, especially **date/time collected**, a contact number, and an email to receive the results. See back of form for tips. **Print legibly.** Incompleteness, illegibility, or forms containing inaccurate information and any delays or consequences resulting from these errors are the sole responsibility of the individual providing the sample. **Signature is required.**
4. Fold the completed form in half (top to bottom), and fold again (top to bottom.) Place payment inside form. Wrap form & payment around the sample, & secure it with the rubber band provided.
5. ***Include payment - cash, check, or money order (available at Walmart nearby on Rt 10). Samples will not be processed until payment is received.***
6. For transport, sample should be cool, without getting the form wet. Place sample in a sealable plastic sandwich-size baggie. Put that baggie inside another sandwich-size baggie with ~3 ice cubes ice during transport. Upon delivery, remove inner baggie with sample. Open dropbox on the post, place sample inside the cooler in the drop box. ***Toss ice on the ground.*** Cooler is not big enough for gallon-size baggies or ice. Ice pack is located inside cooler to keep samples cool.
7. If the cooler is not in the drop box, please contact us. Do not put samples in the large Chemical Bottle Supply cooler on the ground (not routinely checked). Deliver sample ***the same day as collected*** to ensure regulatory compliance, or contact us. Do not mail samples.

### **BIOTECH LABORATORY**

Email anytime at [biotechlab@verizon.net](mailto:biotechlab@verizon.net). Call evenings at 804-520-4807.

Visit us at [biotechlabwatertesting.com](http://biotechlabwatertesting.com)

*The lab is located in a neighborhood. Please use the white dropbox on the black pole at the street end of the driveway. No need to come to the house. Contact us with any questions at [biotechlab@verizon.net](mailto:biotechlab@verizon.net).*