

FACT SHEET 3

WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION

To avoid contaminating the sample during collection, follow the instructions below or the instructions provided by an accredited laboratory.

What Do I Need to Know About Water Testing?

Samples must be collected from the cold water supply line.

Take the water sample as close as possible to the water's access point into the barn, or at an access point immediately after it has passed through the in-barn water treatment system, if applicable. The sample needs to be as fresh as possible.

How Do I Collect a Water Sample?

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water.
2. Take the sample from a cold water faucet or tap with no screen, or remove the screen before you collect the sample. (The screen can contaminate the sample.)
3. Let the cold water run continuously for at least two full minutes before you collect the sample.
4. Hold the bottle near the base of the tap to get the sample. Fill it according to the lab's instructions (e.g., a 200 mL sample filled to the shoulder of the bottle). Do not overfill the bottle.
5. Put the cap on the bottle immediately after filling. Make sure the cap is secure, but do not over-tighten.
6. Put the identification label from the requisition form on the bottle, if applicable. The label should include the following information:
 - your name and daytime phone number
 - your mailing address
 - your legal land description and/or civic address
 - date and time sample was collected.
7. Put the sample in a cooler filled with ice packs and bring it to the drop-off location or laboratory right away.

DO NOT:

- rinse the sampling bottle
- let water overflow or splash down the side of the bottle
- put the cap on a countertop (it can get contaminated)
- open the bottle until you are ready to collect your sample
- touch the inside of the cap, the mouth or neck of the bottle
- collect samples from a garden hose or outside tap, or from any place that might be dirty.