

Drinking Water Sampling Instructions

These instructions apply to sampling Drinking Water for Total Coliforms, Nitrate/Nitrite and Lead. Sample containers needed include a sterile bottle for the Total Coliforms, a 125ml unpreserved bottle for Nitrate/Nitrite and a 125ml bottle with Nitric acid (HNO₃) preservative for Lead. These sample containers can be obtained from our sample receiving department. Instructions for sample collection are as follows:

1. Remove the aerator screen from the kitchen tap.
2. Run the cold water for approximately 10 minutes.
3. Fill the sterile bottle to the 100ml fill line. Keep the powder or pellet in the bottle. Do not touch the inside of the bottle or cap. This is the Total Coliforms sample.
4. Fill the unpreserved 125ml bottle to the shoulder for the Nitrate/Nitrite sample.
5. Fill the Nitric acid preserved 125ml bottle to the shoulder for the Lead sample.
6. Complete the Trace Drinking Water Chain-of-Custody form.
7. Place the samples on ice and return them with the Chain-of-Custody to Trace Analytical Laboratories, Inc. on the same day that they were sampled.

Please note: Samples for Total Coliforms analysis cannot be submitted to Trace Analytical Laboratories, Inc. on the last day of the work week due to a 24-hour hold time. Trace Analytical Laboratories, Inc. can provide sample collection services for Drinking Water Clients for a nominal fee.