



PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SAMPLE

Taking a Water Sample: Follow these steps carefully so that the sterile water sample bottle obtained from EHS does not become contaminated, and sample water only intended for drinking water (i.e. do not sample from untreated lake water).

Please plan to sample your water when you are sure you can deliver it to KSCS Environmental Health Services within 24 HOURS. Your water sample must be kept cool – do not store or transport in warm places such as your car trunk.

1. **Remove any aerator, screen, or other attachment from your kitchen faucet.** If you cannot do this, take a sample from an inside tap with no aerator, such as the bathtub. Do not take a sample from an outside faucet or the garden hose.
2. **Swab the end of the faucet spout with isopropyl alcohol or diluted bleach solution (1 part household bleach to 10 parts water) to remove debris or bacteria.** Do not disinfect the spout with a flame because this can damage the faucet.
3. **Run the cold tap for 5 minutes** before collecting the sample.
4. **Remove the lid of the sample bottle.** Do not touch the inside of the lid, put the lid down, or touch it with anything other than the water being collected. Do not rinse out the bottle.
5. **Fill the bottle to the level that is marked on bottle.** Close the lid firmly and refrigerate.

Results are unreliable if the sample is improperly collected, stored or transported.



What is tested?

At Environmental Health Services, we test for indicator bacteria called total coliform and E.coli. The samples are not tested for other contaminants such as chemicals.

Total Coliform: These bacteria are often found in animal waste and sewage, and soil and vegetation. If they are in your drinking water, it means surface water may be entering your well.

E. coli (Escherichia coli). These bacteria are normally found only in the digestive systems of people and animals. If they are in your drinking water, it usually means that animal or human waste is entering your well from a nearby source

For More Information:

For more information on interpreting your sample results, or for information on how to sample for other contaminants such as chemicals, call 450-635-9945 or visit our website www.kscs.ca