



## DRINKING WATER SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS BACTERIA, NITRATE, NITRATE/NITRITE & LEAD

1. If sampling for **bacteria and nitrate** you will need a sterile bacteria bottle and a second bottle for the nitrate analysis. If Federal money is involved (FHA, VA Loans etc.) you may have to test for lead and nitrate/nitrite, contact your lender for verification.
2. Collect sample prior to any water softeners, filters and treatment systems.
3. Remove any mechanisms added to the tap (aerators, screens, hose attachments, etc.).
4. Sterilize the faucet with a 5% bleach solution or rubbing alcohol.
5. Run the cold water for 10 minutes for occupied homes and 30 minutes for unoccupied homes.
6. Remove the cap from the sterile bottle. Be careful to hold the cap in the down position and do not touch the inside of the cap, bottle or bottle neck with your fingers.
7. Fill the sterile bottle to the fill line or slightly above; make sure to leave an air space in the bottle.
8. Replace the cap making sure not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle, tighten.
9. Fill the second bottle labeled as "Nitrate".
10. Fill out data sheet.
11. Please keep the samples out of direct sunlight and avoid extreme temperature changes during the storage and transport of samples. Refrigerate the sample if it will not be delivered immediately to the lab.
12. Private well samples must be analyzed within 48 hours of collections; public well samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of collection.

### NITRATE/NITRITE & LEAD

1. Nitrate/Nitrite and lead samples do not require sterile containers or sterile sampling techniques. Do not use a sterile drinking water container, this will void the tests.
2. **To sample nitrate/nitrite:** You will need a 200 mL container. Run the cold water tap for 10 minutes. Collect sample. Sample must be taken to the lab the same day, Monday – Thursday before 1:00 pm.
3. **To sample lead:** You will need a 1-liter acid preserved container. Run the cold water tap for ten minutes. Let the cold water sit in the pipes overnight. First thing in the morning before running any cold water, collect your cold water sample. Fill the container to approximately ½" from the top, do not over flow the container.

### SAMPLE REJECTION

1. Sample is more than 48 hours old (30 hours for public wells)
2. Insufficient amount of sample
3. Partially or completely frozen sample
4. Foreign objects in sample (bugs, grass, etc.)
5. No air space left in sample bottle

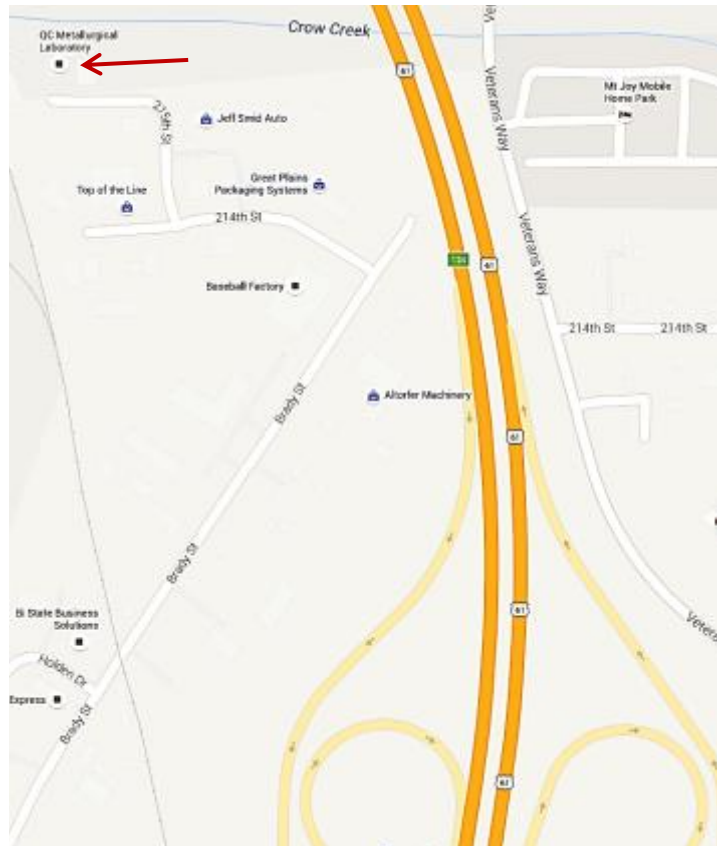


## Sample Receiving Time

To insure 24 hr. turn-around time for bacteria and nitrate tests, completed water test kits are accepted in our office Monday - Thursday. The water samples are analyzed at 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with the results available after 3:00 p.m. the following day. A written report will be mailed. QCML does observe various holidays. If you are taking this sample during a holiday week, please contact the lab prior to sampling to make sure the lab will be accepting samples on that day.

Private well water samples must be analyzed within 48 hours after the sample has been collected. Public well water samples must be analyzed within 30 hours after the sample has been collected.

**Samples dropped off on Fridays have an additional charge of 30.00 because the incubation time requires technicians to complete the testing on Saturday.**



## Price List for Drinking Water Analysis

Present/Absent Coliform Bacteria & Nitrate 26.75 including tax.

Most Probable Number (MPN) Coliform Bacteria and Nitrate 42.80 including tax.

Present/Absent Coliform Bacteria OR Nitrate 21.40 including tax.

Most Probable Number (MPN) Coliform Bacteria 37.45 including tax.

## Additional Tests Are Available

Arsenic, Copper, Lead, Iron, Metals, Organic Compounds, Herbicide's/Pesticides PCBs TTHM, HAA<sub>5</sub> IOC's, SOC's, VOC's, SVOC's, Sulfur, Hardness. Please inquire for sampling containers and preservation requirements.