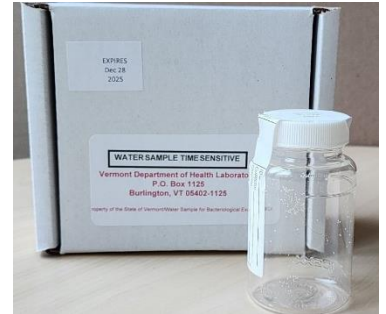


It is very important to read all instructions before collecting your samples. Learn more about testing your drinking water at www.healthvermont.gov/water.

Your kit comes with:

- 100-milliliter plastic bottle with preservative. Please do not rinse this bottle.
- Water Sample Collection Information Form
- Sample Return Instructions
- Cardboard outer container with mailing label



Prepare

- Read **Sample Return Instructions** carefully before you begin. The sample must be analyzed within **30 hours** of collection.
- Plan to collect your sample the morning you will send it in for testing.
- Sample from the faucet you normally use for drinking water.
- Do not use a leaking faucet.
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle.
- Write your last name and phone number on the bottle's label.
- Wash and sanitize your hands before collecting your sample.

Collect Your Sample

- With clean hands or a paper towel, remove the sink aerator.
- Run cold water at **high flow for 3-5 minutes** to get rid of water that has been sitting in your pipes. If you have a single-handle faucet, run hot water for 2 minutes, then cold water for 2 minutes.
- Reduce the flow by half and fill the bottle slightly above the 100-milliliter line. Do not fill past the neck of the bottle because the preservative will be lost.
- Screw on the cap tightly.
- Fill out the **Water Sample Collection Information Form** (see below).

Fill Out Your Form

- In the upper left corner of the **Water Sample Collection Information Form**, check that your name and address are correct. Make any corrections directly on the form.
- Enter the **date and time** you collected the sample.
- Enter your daytime phone number (including area code).
- Enter the faucet location where the sample was collected (for example, kitchen sink).

Water Bacteria Kits – How to Collect Water Samples (continued)

- Add any comments that you feel would be useful. Include an email address if you want your results to be emailed to you.
- **Homeowners:** Note whether you have added chlorine to the system in the last two weeks.
- **Public Water Systems only:** Provide your field result for Residual Chlorine. The VDHL will test the sample by Standard Method 9223, it will not be tested for residual chlorine at VDHL.

Return Your Sample to the Laboratory

- Put the sample bottle and completed form in the cardboard mailer. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources.
- See the **Sample Return Instructions** for ways to get your sample to the Lab.
- Make sure your sample will reach the Lab within 30 hours of collecting the sample, including shipping and courier times.
- Do not mail your sample on Fridays or the day before a state holiday.

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I expect my test results?

Bacteria results are released within 1-2 business days. To avoid mail delays and get your results by email, write your email address on the **Water Sample Collection Information Form**.

How often should I test my well or spring?

Wells and springs should be tested for bacteria annually.

For more information and descriptions of test kits, visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/WaterTestDescriptions>

How can I make sure I send a sample that is acceptable for testing?

Sometimes we receive samples that need to be “qualified” or even rejected, which means the sample did not meet all the testing requirements. **Here are a few things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample:**

- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within 30 hours from the time you filled the water sample bottle.
- Fill the bottle to just **over** the 100-milliliter line. Only use bottles provided by our lab.
- Check the expiration date on your bottle. If it has expired, contact us for a free replacement.
- Remember to put your name and the date and time of sample collection on the form.



Scan this QR code to see a video on how to sample your water for bacteria or go to this link: <https://youtu.be/a1DJffO0gCA>.

Go to: HeathVermont.gov/drinking-water-sample-drop-information for online sample drop-off information.