

How to collect a water sample

For Basic Water Test (W1); Expanded Water Test (W2); Home Loan Closing (W33B):

We recommend all drinking water samples be collected from the **first draw** water out of the kitchen faucet or from the faucet used most often for drinking. Sample bottle will typically be the opaque bottle if obtained from the extension office. Please follow these basic protocols when collecting a drinking water sample:

1. A first draw water sample will be collected (after a minimum of 6 hours, but not more than 12-hour period) during which time there was no water usage prior to the sampling. The GA-EPD recommends that either early morning or evening upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure that the necessary stagnant water conditions exist.
2. A kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet is to be used for sampling. If the primary concern is contamination of the well head, draw the water from as near the well head as possible.
3. Place a clean sample container below the faucet and gently open the cold water tap.
4. Completely fill all sample bottles.
5. Bring 16 oz. 'Expanded Water Test (W2)' water sample back to extension office for processing. 'Basic Water Test (W1)' and 'Home Loan Closing (W33B)' can be shipped with Ecoli sample in box provided.

For Microbiology testing (i.e. Bacteria & E. Coli – W35).

Sample must be collected and shipped on the same day, and can only be shipped Mon-Wed due to 24 hour lab processing requirements. Please follow the below 7 basic protocols when collecting an E. coli test sample:

1. Complete submission form and be sure to **document the date and time of collection**. The lab cannot test the sample without this information.
2. Select an inside faucet that is clean and not leaking.
3. Remove any faucet attachments such as filters, aerators, screens, splashguards, or water-saver valves.
4. Sanitize the faucet inside and out by dipping the faucet neck into undiluted chlorine bleach (do not use color-safe bleach).
5. Open tap fully and flush the faucet and pipes by running water for 3 minutes. If sampling from a faucet that mixes hot and cold water, run hot water for 3 minutes, then cold water for 3 minutes. Do not turn off the water, but reduce the flow to avoid splashing.
6. Uncap the sample bottle (clear bottle with powder or may have water droplets) without touching the inside of the cap or bottle, fill the bottle above the 100 mL line, but not completely full and recap. Please note that the white substance/water droplets in the bottle is a dechlorinating agent, which is essential. Fill the bottle only once; do not rinse.
7. **Take collection package with water sample, (remember to include testing submission form), to UPS for shipping. Samples can only be shipped Mon- Wed. Collected samples need to be with UPS by 4PM in order to go out for overnight air delivery.**

To view video on collection procedure: [Camden County Testing Services Webpage](#) (or search for our website UGA Extension Camden County)