

Water Sampling Steps

1. Obtain a suitable container from the Health Department Laboratory (a sterile container is necessary for a bacteria test).
2. If possible, sterilize METAL faucets by using a propane torch for a few seconds. If the faucet has a screen or aerator on the end, remove this before collecting the water sample.
3. Let the water run at least TEN MINUTES before taking water sample. COLD, HARD WATER should be taken, not soft water, and never through a hose.
4. Open sterilized container (being sure not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle rim.) Fill to one-half inch from the top and carefully replace cap.
5. Water samples should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably within 6 hours of collection. Samples not submitted immediately after collection should be refrigerated until they are taken to the laboratory on ice. Samples older than 30 hours will not be accepted for analysis.
6. Samples are accepted **Monday through Thursday**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Payment for analysis is required at the time the water sample is submitted. (Make checks to LA CROSSE COUNTY TREASURER)

Test results will be available 1-2 days following submission to the laboratory.