Center for Watershed Science and Education
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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COLLECTING A PRIVATE WELL WATER SAMPLE

Read **ALL** instructions prior to collecting your sample. Have questions? Call us! **715-346-3209**

If you are taking more than one kind of sample, collect them in the following order:

1 METALS PACKAGE

Take this sample first thing in the morning, before any water has been run.

1. Select the faucet in your home that supplies most of your drinking water.
   a. Use the cold water tap from this faucet. If a swivel faucet, turn all the way to cold.
2. Turn the faucet on to a slight trickle, smaller than the width of a pencil.
3. Run the water for approximately 30 seconds.
4. Fill the vial to within a ¼ inch of the top.
   a. Do not overfill or rinse the vial.
5. Replace the cap tightly.
6. Dry the bottle.
7. Reattach red tape.

CAUTION: The metals vial contains a small drop of acid preservative. If you get the preservative on your skin, rinse affected area for 5 minutes under cold water.



2 HOMEOWNER PACKAGE

Take this sample in the AFTERNOON and ship OVERNIGHT.
The Homeowner Package bottle is sterile.
DO NOT touch the inside of the bottle or cap once opened and DO NOT rinse.

THE HOMEOWNER PACKAGE TESTS FOR BACTERIA. SEE SECOND PAGE FOR IMPORTANT SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Select the faucet in your home that supplies most of your drinking water.
   a. Use the cold water tap from this faucet. If a swivel faucet, turn all the way to cold.
   b. Ideally, this faucet will be unsoftened or otherwise treated. Often, the cold water kitchen faucet is not softened. You may also collect this sample from the pressure tank or an outside faucet.
   c. Remove any faucet screens, aerators, or other attachments. If sampling from an outside faucet, any hoses, hose bibs, or other attachments must be removed. Wipe the threads of outdoor faucets with an alcohol wipe to remove any dirt or debris.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
3. Run water on high for 15 minutes (the goal is to sample water from the well so you may want to let water run until you hear the well pump turn on or until water gets as cold as it can).
4. Slow the water stream down until it is about the width of a pencil.
5. Remove and dispose of the clear plastic seal around the bottle cap and carefully remove the cap.
6. Fill bottle to or slightly above the 250 mL fill line (pictured at right) and replace the cap securely.



3 DACT SCREEN

1. Select the faucet in your home that supplies most of your drinking water.
   a. It works well to use the same faucet that was used for sampling the Homeowner Package (see Step 2).
2. Run the water on high for at least 5 minutes.
3. Rinse the DACT sample bottle three times with water from the tap.
4. Fill the bottle to within ½ inch of the top and replace the cap securely.

