



## BRAZOS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

201 NORTH TEXAS AVENUE • BRYAN, TEXAS 77803-5317

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[www.brazoshealth.org](http://www.brazoshealth.org)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Notice for Water Test Customers:

#### Bacteriological Examination of Drinking Water

- We accept water samples Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - **No samples will be accepted after 3 p.m. Thursday and none at all on Friday,**
  - Any samples brought in after 3 p.m. will not be tested until the following day provided they were collected after 9 a.m. that day.
  - Beginning July 1, 1998 the cost per sample will be \$15.00.
- \*PLEASE PROVIDE EXACT CHANGE \$15.00. We accept cash and local checks only.\*
- We will fax water-testing results upon request for a fee of \$3.00 for local faxes, \$5.00 for long distance faxes.
  - We require 100 ml per sample. If the bottle is filled above or below the 100 ml mark we will have to reject the sample.

If there are any questions please call us at (979) 361-4440 and ask for the lab or

E-mail: [brosser@co.brazos.tx.us](mailto:brosser@co.brazos.tx.us)

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING AND SUBMITTING WATER SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS OF BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION

## Collecting Samples

1. Do not make any marks directly on the bottles or caps. On private samples identify each sample using a strip of masking tape to write on.
2. Do not rinse out the bottle. A reagent (white powder) has been added which is to remain in the bottle.
3. Use a faucet as close to the well as possible for making the collection. If an inside faucet is used, remove the aerator before making the collection.
4. Wash and dry the exterior of the faucet to prevent exterior contamination of the water sample.
5. Turn on the faucet full force for two to three minutes to flush out anything which might be in the immediate pipes or the faucet itself, then turn the flow down to a small stream.
6. Carefully remove the cap, making sure that nothing touches the inside of the cap or the bottle. Without creating a splash, **fill the bottle to the 100 ml mark**. There must be an air space at the top of the bottle. If bottles are filled with more than 102.5 ml or less than 97.5 ml the sample must be rejected according to our lab accreditation authority. Re-cap securely.
7. Make sure each bottle is correctly identified. Fill out a supplied water request form for each sample. The point of collection should reflect the identification on the sample.

## Submitting Samples

1. The water samples are to be brought in to the Health Department no later than 3:00 PM on the day collected. Samples must be received within 30 hours of the time of collection. If you must mail the samples, check with the local postmaster for the latest pickup on the day of collection and make the collection as near that time as possible. Send by overnight delivery mail ONLY. Any other form of mailing may cause delay and rejection of the samples. Mail only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

**No samples will be accepted on Fridays.**

2. Enclose a check (local checks only) for the correct amount (\$15.00 per sample) payable to PUBLIC HEALTH.

Test results should be ready by 3:30 PM the afternoon following receipt of the samples

## **WATER TEST INTERPRETATION**

We are providing you with this information to allow you to understand the results of the testing done on your well water.

The interpretations given refer to the Texas Department of State Health Services guidelines for acceptable water.

- 1) Coliform bacteria found/ Escherichia coli found - The water is not suitable for human consumption. The source of the water must be treated and the water re-tested for suitability.
- 2) Heavy silt or sediment - Sometimes the amount of silt or sediment present is heavy enough to obscure the detection of coliform bacteria. This water should be filtered or treated to reduce the silt or sediment to allow proper reading of the test and then the water should be re-tested.

In any case of the presence of coliform bacteria or an unsuitable result, corrective measures must be taken before another sample is taken for testing. The problems can't be resolved without adequate treatment of the sources of those problems.