



# Sampling Your Drinking Water

## Inorganic Miscellaneous Test for Homeowners

Thank you for testing your drinking water. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at [www.healthvermont.gov/water](http://www.healthvermont.gov/water).



### 1. Prepare

- Put the **freezer packs** in the freezer ahead of time if provided.
- Go to the drinking water source you want to test.
- Do not touch inside the cap or mouth of the water sample bottle.
- Run cold water at **high flow** for **3-5 minutes** to get rid of water that has been sitting in your pipes.
- Return water to **medium flow** to collect your water sample.

### 2. Collect



- Fill the sample bottle to the neck and screw the cap on tightly so it does not leak.
- Complete the **Water Sample Collection Information Form**, including the date and time you took your water sample.
- If you use any **water treatment** in your water, describe it on the form (for example: water softener).
- Label the sample bottle so it can be matched with its correct form (for example: John Smith, kitchen sink).

### 3. Return

- Put **freezer packs** (if provided) and tightly closed water sample bottle in a cooler with:
  - Completed **Water Sample Collection Information Form**. We suggest putting the form inside a sealed plastic bag.
- To get your sample to the Health Department Laboratory within **24 hours** (for pH, TDS, turbidity or conductivity tests) or **one week** (for other tests), either:
  - **Bring it to:** 359 South Park Drive, Colchester, Vermont (Monday to Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
  - **Mail it to:** PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125



Over please.

Vermont Department of Health Laboratory  
359 South Park Dr.  
Colchester, VT 05446  
1-800-660-9997 (VT only) or 1-802-338-4724

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 1125  
Burlington, VT 05402-1125



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## Frequently Asked Questions

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

Sometimes we receive samples that need to be “qualified”, which means the sample doesn’t meet all the testing requirements. Here are a few [things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample](#):

- Submit your sample in the water sample bottle provided by the laboratory.
- Don’t send a sample that has a strong chlorine smell – too much chlorine can interfere with some tests.
- Make sure to completely fill out the Water Sample Collection Information Form.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within [24 hours](#) (for pH, residual chlorine, TDS, turbidity or conductivity tests) [or one week](#) (for other tests).
- If provided, use freezer packs and a cooler to keep the temperature of your water sample less than 42 degrees F (6° Celsius) – cold, but not freezing – until it reaches the laboratory.

### If I decide to mail my sample to the lab, what are some of the ways I can do that?

Many people choose to bring their sample to the laboratory themselves. People who ship their samples do so in several ways. You can use any of the services below, but make sure to ship your sample [between Monday and Thursday](#) so your sample arrives before the weekend. Do not ship on a Friday. Samples that arrive on a weekend may be rejected.

We suggest one of these options:

- United States Postal Service (USPS) – use express or overnight mail to send to:  
**PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125.**
- United Parcel Service (UPS) or Federal Express (FedEx)– ship samples overnight to our physical address:  
**359 South Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446**

### When can I expect my test results?

Test results will be mailed about 10–15 business days after the water sample was received.

### Where can I get more information about the health effects of the contaminants in my drinking water?

For more information, and to see a video about how to test your drinking water, visit [healthvermont.gov/water](http://healthvermont.gov/water).