



Sampling Your Drinking Water

Inorganic Test (Kit for Odor, Alkalinity or Residual Chlorine)

Thank you for testing your drinking water. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at www.healthvermont.gov/water.



1. Prepare

- Put the freezer packs in the freezer ahead of time.
- 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 glass bottle to the top with no space for air bubbles, screw the cap tightly, and wrap bottle with bubble wrap.
- 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 in 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** and tightly closed water sample bottle in the cooler with:
 - Completed **Water Sample Collection Information Form**. We suggest putting form inside a sealed plastic bag.
- To get your sample to the Health Department Laboratory within 24 hours, 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 (Do not ship on a Friday)

Over please.

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 from the time you filled the water sample bottle.
- 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.