



Laboratories certified by the State of Idaho for water testing

Alchem Laboratory (Boise) (208) 336-1172

Analytical Laboratories (Boise)(208) 342-5515

Northern Analytical Services (Idaho Falls) (208) 680-7062

I.A.S. Envirochem Laboratory (Pocatello) (208) 237-3300

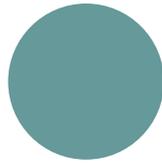
ID Dept of Health & Welfare (Boise) (208) 334-2235

Magic Valley Lab (Twin Falls) (208) 733-4250

Magic Valley Lab (Pocatello) (208) 478-1855

Rocky Mountain Resource Lab (Jerome) (208) 324-7522

Please call the lab of your choice to request sample bottles.



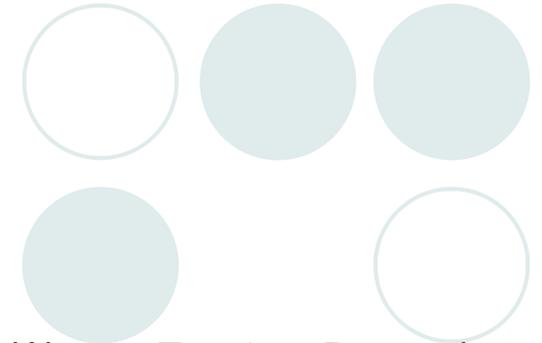
By definition a **Public Water System** is any system that provides water to an average of 25 people at least 60 days of the year. Public Water Systems are required by law to conduct regular monitoring of the water quality.

Transient Public Water Systems serve restaurants, convenience stores, and many other kinds of establishments that serve water to at least the above specified number of people. The people are not necessarily the same people all the time. These systems are required to take a bacteria sample once each calendar quarter and a nitrate sample annually.

Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC)

Public Water Systems serve at least 25 of the same people at least six months of the year. These systems include businesses and schools. NTNC systems take bacteria samples quarterly but are also required to monitor for chemicals.

Community Public Water Systems serve at least 25 year round residents or 15 service connections and are required to monitor for chemicals and take monthly bacteria samples.



Water Testing Procedures & Laboratory Information



How to Take a Bacteria Sample

Probably the most frequent test done on drinking water is the test for total coliforms.



Sampling well water is important to insure the water you drink is safe and clean

This test is often referred to as a bacteria test and the sample is called a bacteria sample. Total coliform bacteria are commonly found everywhere in the environment. One bacteria in

the total coliform group of bacteria is E. Coli. E. Coli comes from the intestinal tract of all warm blooded animals and is often associated with disease causing organisms. The total coliform test tests for any of the organisms in the group and if any are found then further testing is done to determine if the bacteria found are in the E. Coli category. If none of the total coliform group are found then we do not need to worry about E. Coli.

Where to take the sample

Take the sample from a clean indoor faucet. Outdoor faucets and frost free hydrants should not be used if possible because of the likelihood of contamination. It is best to avoid threaded taps,

swivel faucets and any leaking faucet. If possible do not use a mixing faucet. (where hot and cold water come through the same tap). Never take samples from taps that are obviously contaminated. If good sampling procedures are followed it is possible to get a representative sample from a mixing faucet or a threaded tap.

Containers

Containers are usually supplied by the laboratories at no cost. The containers are sterilized and often contain a very small amount of a liquid or powder form of sodium thiosulfate. This is a substance used to combine with any chlorine in the water to prevent it from interfering with the test. Make sure the bottle has not been tampered with or opened. It is not advisable to use a bottle that has been stored for a long time. If in doubt get a new bottle.

Sampling Technique

1. Remove any hoses, screens, or purification devices from the faucet.

2. Turn the cold water on and allow it to run in a steady stream for at least 5 minutes. If the well is a long distance from the faucet run for a longer time.
3. After the lines have been sufficiently flushed to provide a sample of fresh well water, open the container. Fill the bottle to the neck but do not overflow. Do not touch the inside of the lid or the lip of the bottle. Do not set the lid down on anything. Do not rinse the container and do not allow water to splash off the sink or your hand into the sample. Do not allow the bottle to touch the faucet.
4. As soon as the bottle is filled, replace the lid.
5. Make sure to label the bottle and complete the required forms.

Eastern Idaho Public Health District

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