



# Sampling Your Drinking Water

## Inorganic Test (Kit C)

Thank you for testing your drinking water. Your kit comes with two bottles. See instructions below on how to fill each bottle. A Kit C is recommended every five years. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at [www.healthvermont.gov/water](http://www.healthvermont.gov/water).

### Prepare

- Put the freezer packs in the freezer ahead of time.
- Do not remove the aerator when you collect the sample.
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle.

### Collect First Sample (small bottle)

- Do not use any water from the specific drinking water source (e.g. faucet) that you want to test for 8-18 hours. Tip: collect first thing in the morning.
- Place the small opened bottle below the drinking water source before turning on the water.
- Turn cold water on slowly and catch all water in the bottle.
- Fill the bottle to the neck and screw the cap on tightly.



### Collect Second Sample (large bottle)

- Go to the drinking water source you want to test.
- 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.
- Fill the large bottle to the neck and screw the cap on tightly.



### Return

- Complete both Water Sample Collection Information Forms, including the date and time you took each 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).
- Put freezer packs and the tightly closed bottles in a cooler with the completed forms.
- To get your sample to the Health Department Laboratory within 48 hours, either bring or mail it to the address listed on the next page.



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 that the sample did not 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 [both](#) Water Sample Collection Information Forms.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within 48 hours from the time you filled the water sample bottles.
- 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).