

It is very important to read all the instructions before collecting your water and submitting to the laboratory. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at [www.healthvermont.gov/water](http://www.healthvermont.gov/water).

Your kit comes with:

- One 1-liter plastic bottle
- [Water Sample Collection Information](#) worksheet

### Prepare

- Remove the aerator when you collect the sample.
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle.
- Run cold water at high flow for 3-5 minutes to flush the water that has been sitting in your pipes.



### 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 the water sample.
- If treatment was bypassed or turned off, write “[BYPASS TREATMENT](#)” in the sampler’s comments section.



### Return

- Label the sample bottle so it can be matched with its correct form (e.g., John Smith, 802-XXX-XXXX).
- Put the tightly closed [water sample bottle](#) and [completed Water Sample Collection Information Form](#) in a box.
- Read Sample Return Instructions carefully; return the kit within 48 hours of sampling.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### When can I expect my test results?

Test results will be sent out about 14 days after the water sample was received at the laboratory.

To avoid mail delays, sign up for emailed results. Email the Laboratory at [AHS.VDHLabCustomerService@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHLabCustomerService@vermont.gov) with your preferred email address.

### 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 <https://www.healthvermont.gov/water-a-z>.

### 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. Some reasons water samples are qualified include:

- High iron and/or manganese
- Presence of sediment or solids

### Here are a few things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample:

- Submit your sample in the sample bottle provided by the laboratory.
- Make sure to complete the Water Sample Collection Information Form.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within 48 hours from the time you filled the bottle.