

# How to Collect Radon in Water Samples

## Kit RC

It is very important to read all instructions before collecting your radon sample. Learn more about testing for radon at [www.healthvermont.gov/environment/healthy-homes/radon](http://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/healthy-homes/radon).

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact the laboratory toll free at: 800-660-9997 or 802-338-4724 or email [AHS.VDHLabCustomerService@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHLabCustomerService@vermont.gov).

## Your Kit Comes with

- Two 40 mL glass vials
- *Water Sample Collection Information Form* (CHEM 202)

## Prepare

- Read Sample Return Instructions carefully; **samples must be returned to the laboratory within 48 hours of collection.**
  - Visit [HealthVermont.gov/drinking-water-sample-drop-information](http://HealthVermont.gov/drinking-water-sample-drop-information) for online sample drop-off information.
- Remove aerator/strainer from faucet, if possible.
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the sample vials with your fingers.



## Collect

- Let the cold water run at full flow for 3-5 minutes.
- Return water to low flow before collecting the sample.
- Reduce to low flow and fill both vials until overflowing (both vials must be filled from the same tap).
- Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage.
- Turn vials over and check for bubbles by tapping gently. If air bubbles of any size are present, dump out the vials and repeat sample collection. The vials must be completely full to be acceptable for testing.
- Fill out the required *Water Sample Collection Information Form* (CHEM 202).
  - Include date and time the sample was collected



Example of unacceptable sample.

[HealthVermont.gov/Lab/About-Us](http://HealthVermont.gov/Lab/About-Us)  
802-338-4724 or 800-660-9997

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Water Sampling Instructions for Kit RC, Version: 7.0, CHEM-419

## Return Your Samples to the Laboratory

- Wrap vials with paper towels and secure with a rubber band to prevent breakage.
- **Return samples within 48 hours of collection.** See *Sample Return Instructions* (ADMIN-978) or visit [HealthVermont.gov/drinking-water-sample-drop-information](https://www.healthvermont.gov/drinking-water-sample-drop-information) for online sample drop-off information.
- If mailing sample, collect the sample just prior to your local post office's pick-up time and verify a 48-hour delivery time (M - F) to the laboratory.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### When can I expect my test results?

Test results will be sent about 7-10 business days after the sample is received. To avoid mail delays, write your email address on the **Water Sample Collection Information Form**.

### How often should I test my well or spring?

Testing for radon in the water is recommended every five years. For more information, visit [www.healthvermont.gov/environment/healthy-homes/radon](https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/healthy-homes/radon).

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

Sometimes we receive samples that need to be “qualified” or even rejected, which means the sample did not meet all the testing requirements. **Here are a few things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample:**

- Be sure the sample gets to the lab **within 48 hours** from the time you filled the vials. Contact the laboratory with any questions before starting the test.
- Check for air bubbles. Pour out and recollect any vial that has air bubbles.
- Fill both vials from the same faucet.
- Fill the vials until they are overflowing when collecting the sample.
- Remember to record the date and time you filled the vials on the Sample Collection Form.
- Always use containers provided by our laboratory.