

PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLES

Samples must be collected in approved, sterile containers. These can be obtained at the Health Department or from the laboratory conducting the tests. **Tests will only be recognized if performed by a State of Florida approved lab certified to test drinking water.**

The following is the recommended procedure for conducting a 5 sample bacteriological survey:

- Samples should be taken from a point of use in the distribution system rather than from the well head.
- If there is a filter, screen, or aerator on a faucet, it should be removed, if possible, before taking the sample.
- Flush sampling point thoroughly - allow water to run several minutes before collecting sample. Be careful to NOT contaminate the sample during the process.
- Do not empty or rinse out the sample container.
- After flushing sampling spigot, turn water to a slow gentle stream with no splash or spray.

Testing Schedule:

- **Sample #1:** SUNDAY EVENING - Take one sample and refrigerate.
- **Sample #2:** MONDAY MORNING - Take second sample and place both sample #1 and sample #2 in cooler and bring to Orange County Health Department or take to certified private lab.
- **Sample #3:** TUESDAY EVENING - Take sample #3 and refrigerate.
- **Sample #4:** WEDNESDAY MORNING - Take fourth sample and place both sample #3 and sample #4 in cooler and bring to Orange County Health Department or take to certified private lab.
- **Sample #5:** THURSDAY MORNING - Take sample, place in cooler, and bring to Orange County Health Dept. or take to certified lab before 2:00 p.m.

The above sequence can be shortened by taking a sample on Sunday evening & Monday morning - take to lab - Monday evening and on Tuesday morning - bring to lab - and then sample Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning - bring to lab before 2:00 p.m.

Samples are accepted **Monday through Thursday only**. Samples will not be accepted for testing on Fridays, holidays and day before holidays.

SAMPLES WILL BE REJECTED WITHOUT TESTING IF:

- **They do not contain at least 4 oz. (100 ml) of water.**
- **They do not have adequate air/shake space.**
- **Closure is not sufficient to prevent leaking and possible contamination.**
- **They are not in an approved container.**
- **They are more than 24 hours old.**

Lab Fees: (If brought to the Orange County Health Department at 800 N. Mercy Dr, Suite 1, Orlando FL 32808)

\$22.00 per Bacterial Testing sample
\$88.00 per Lead/Nitrate/Nitrite Testing
\$10.00 per Lead testing sample
\$170.00 per Commercial Delineated Well Permit sample

If preferred, you can also utilize a State of Florida approved lab certified to test drinking water for your water sampling testing.