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## **TIPS for HOMEOWNERS #2**

### **PROPER COLLECTION OF WATER SAMPLE FOR BACTERIAL ANALYSIS**

1. Select a glass or plastic container that will hold at least one (1) pint.
2. Boil the jar and lid for ten **(10) minutes**, or run them through the dishwasher.
3. Select an appropriate sampling point. The faucet you select should not have a swivel or a mixing control. Remove the strainer if there is one. Good sampling points are frequently in the bathroom sink or tub. An outside faucet is also fine if it is clear of contamination by dirt. The kitchen faucet is usually considered a poor sampling point. **Do not sample through a hose or a frost-free hydrant.**
4. Let the **cold** water run for five (5) minutes before collecting the sample.
5. Keep the sample cold (refrigerate or use a cooler) and bring it to the laboratory the same day it is drawn. Analysis must begin at the lab within 24(twenty-four) hours after sample collection for the test to be valid.

### **PROPER COLLECTION OF WATER FOR LEAD AND COPPER ANALYSIS**

1. Drinking water that is to be analyzed for lead and copper should be collected using the "first-draw" technique described in #2 below.
2. Water should be used the day prior to collection, but then allowed to sit in the plumbing lines for six to eighteen hours. Collection is performed on the **FIRST** water drawn from the cold water tap after the six to eighteen hour period has passed. For most people, collection is most easily accomplished first thing in the morning **prior to ANY use of water**. This includes the flushing of toilets, etc.
3. Size of sample - one liter or a quart container
4. When homeowners are given a bottle to perform this collection, it should NOT contain preservative (i.e. nitric acid). The preservative can be added at the lab anytime within fourteen (14) days of sample collection. The holding time for unpreserved samples is fourteen (14) days; the holding time for preserved samples is six (6) months. Samples do not need to be refrigerated.

### **PROPER COLLECTION OF WATER FOR NITRATES ANALYSIS**

1. Fill a clean glass or plastic container with cold water.
2. Refrigerate the sample until it is transported to the laboratory
3. The holding time for a sample is 48 hours.