

BUCKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WATER SAMPLE PROCEDURE

TO ALL PURCHASERS OF SAMPLE KITS FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER ANALYSIS:

This bacteriological water test is supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and is provided at **cost** by the Bucks County Department of Health as a service to Bucks County Residents.

The PA DEP Laboratory in Harrisburg will analyze the sample of water you collect for **Bacteriological Contamination (Coliform Organisms) ONLY**. The results will be mailed directly to you at the address you provide on the laboratory slip. The sample **will not** be analyzed for any chemical contaminants or parameters. Neither the PA DEP nor the Bucks County Department of Health provides routine chemical analysis of water from private sources. If you wish to have a chemical analysis performed on your water, we suggest that you contact a DEP certified private laboratory for this service. These laboratories can be found on the PA DEP web site (www.dep.state.pa.us).

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING SAMPLE

Note: Water sample must be taken the same day you intend to deliver the sample to the Health Department.

1. Remove the aerator from an indoor, leak-free, **cold water** faucet. If testing for bacteria, flame the end of the faucet with a match. (First, confirm the faucet is metal).
2. Let the water **run for 5 minutes**, to bring in water that has not been in contact with household plumbing.
3. Reduce the water flow until the stream is about 1/4 inch in diameter.
4. Fill the specially prepared laboratory bottle. Do not let anything touch the inside of the cap or container. Do **NOT** rinse the container or fill to overflowing. (The lab has added a chemical to the bottle specifically for this test.) Close the bottle.
5. Complete the bacteriological sample submission sheet by filling out the non-shaded part of the form.
Return bottle and lab form to:

**Bucks County Department of Health
Neshaminy Manor Center, Health Building
1282 Almshouse Road – First Floor
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-3318**

OR

**Bucks County Government Services Center
261 California Road, Suite #2
Quakertown, PA 18951
215-529-7000**

A copy of the submitted bacteriological sample submission sheet will be returned as proof of payment.

6. The courier service operates:
DOYLESTOWN - Monday through Thursday Only before 2pm
QUAKERTOWN - Tuesday and Thursday Only before 1:15pm

Water samples will not be accepted on Fridays or two days before a holiday. Water samples must be received back on the same day that the sample is taken.

7. If you should have any questions, please contact the location closest to you.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5

Directions for disinfecting your well are available if your results are positive for coliform bacteria.