

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING WATER SAMPLES

Use only the Whirlpack bag for collecting sample

\$30 Bacteria water analysis fee (Coliform and E. coli)

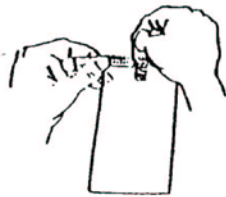
\$30 Nitrate water analysis fee

\$50 If both Bacteria and Nitrate are analyzed (\$10 discount)

\$40 per hour if Aitkin County collects the sample for you

Nitrite FHA requires H₂O also be tested for nitrite and lead. Special bottles and
Lead sampling methods required. Call for further instructions and fee.

1. Try to sample from the primary drinking water tap (usually the kitchen faucet). Remove the aerator on the faucet if present.
2. Sterilize the faucet. Before flaming make sure it is metal. If using a candle (don't use matches) then hold the flame under the end of the faucet for about one minute. If using a larger fire source such as a butane torch then sterilize for about 10 – 15 seconds. If the faucet is plastic that will melt then use a cap-full of bleach in a gallon of water and immerse the end of the faucet for about one minute.
3. Turn on just the cold water and let run for 10 – 15 minutes.
4. Tear off the top of the bag along the score line when the water is ready to be collected. Once opened, handle the bag only by the white tabs or the ends of the wire twists. The bag lip should not be touched. Catch the water sample, being careful not to touch the bag to the faucet.



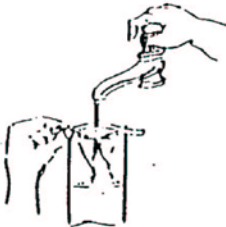
A. Opening:
Tear the top off
at the scored line.



**B. Separate the
wires by pulling
the tabs outward.**



**C. Separate wires
further by pushing
the ends toward
the center of bag.**



D. Filling and Closing:
Fill bag 2/3 to 3/4
full as shown.



**E. Straighten wires
by pulling on the
ends of the wire.**



**F. Whirl the bag 5
complete revolutions
and twist the ends of
the wire together 2-3
times.**

Try to bring the H₂O sample in the day it is sampled. It must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 hours of sampling. Once collected, the sample should be immediately refrigerated or placed on ice for transporting. Any temperature greater than 42.8° F and/or not on ice upon receiving will result in “estimated” values for nitrate. The warmer temperature may allow organisms to grow and use up nitrate if it is in the water giving a possible inaccurate reading.