

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING DRINKING WATER SAMPLES

Use only the Whirlpack bag Aitkin County provides for collecting sample

\$25 Bacteria water analysis fee (Coliform and E. coli)

\$25 Nitrate water analysis fee

**\$40 If both Bacteria & Nitrate are analyzed (\$10 savings)**

\$50 collection charge if Aitkin County collects the sample for you. Many lenders for real estate transactions or loan refinances require that an independent third party collect the sample. Contact the lender directly with questions on which tests are required and if an independent third party is needed for the collection.

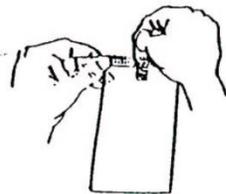
Nitrite

FHA and some lenders may require H<sub>2</sub>O testing for nitrite and lead

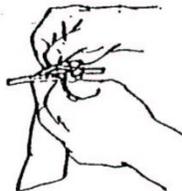
Lead

Special sampling methods required. Call A.W. Research at 218-829-7974

1. Sterilize faucet. Many faucets have plastic parts; heat sterilizing can ruin these types of faucets. Isopropyl rubbing alcohol or a bleach and water solution (approximately one tablespoon bleach per gallon of water) can be used to sterilize the faucet. Immerse end of faucet for about one minute or spray sanitizing solution onto faucet spigot. Pre-packaged sterile isopropyl alcohol wipes can also be used.
2. If flaming to sterilize faucet, 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 just a few seconds.
3. Try to sample from primary drinking water tap or sampling point closest to the well. Remove aerator and o-rings on faucet if present. After sterilizing faucet, turn on just the cold water and let run for 5-10 minutes before collecting sample. If property has been vacant, run water for 20-30 minutes prior to collection.
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.



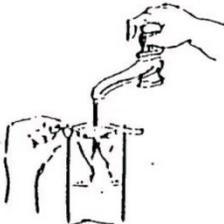
**A. Opening:**  
Tear the top off at the scored line.



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



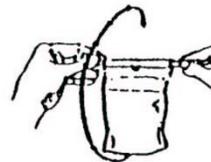
**C. Separate wires** further by pushing the ends toward the center of bag.



**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.

Bring H<sub>2</sub>O sample in the same day it is collected. **Once collected, sample should be immediately refrigerated or placed on ice for transporting.** Sample temperatures greater than 46<sup>0</sup> F will result in "estimated" value for nitrate. Warmer water temperatures may allow organisms to grow in the water giving a possible inaccurate reading. Sample temps < 28<sup>0</sup> F will not be accepted.