

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LABORATORY

Physical: 359 South Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446

Mailing: PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125

1-800-660-9997 (VT only) or 1-802-338-4724

Monday through Friday 7:45 am – 4:30 pm

Thank you for purchasing a Gross Alpha test (Kit RA).

What will I need to collect the sample? The sampling kit includes:

1-liter plastic bottle

Water Sample Collection Information Form (CHEM 202).

Where do I sample? Homeowners: To check untreated well water, bypass any sample treatment that may be present (e.g. water softener); to check treated drinking water, sample from a kitchen or bathroom faucet. **Regulated Water Systems:** Sample at the point of entry to the distribution.

Sample Collection Instructions

1. Prepare

- Do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the sample containers with your fingers.
- Remove aerator/strainer from faucet, if possible.
- Let the cold water run for 3-5 minutes at full flow before taking the sample.

2. Collect

- Reduce to medium flow and fill the container to the neck.
- Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage.
- Fill out the required *Water Sample Collection Information Form (CHEM 202)*.
 - For regulated Public Water Systems, list Facility ID & Sampling Point ID that are on monitoring schedule and provide sampling location information.
- Include date and time the sample was collected.
- Describe any water treatment in submitter remarks section (e.g. water softener).

3. Return

- Label the sample bottle so it can be matched with the correct form (*CHEM 202*).
- Samples can be mailed or delivered to the lab during normal business hours. Samples should be received within **48 hours** of collection.
- If mailing sample, collect the sample just prior to your local post office's pick-up time and verify a 48 hour delivery time (M-F) to the laboratory. Mail to:
PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125.

Can the laboratory reject or qualify my sample?

Yes. Possible reasons may include submitting a sample in a container other than the one provided, incomplete water collection information, or if the sample is received more than **48 hours** after time of collection.

When can I expect my test results?

Test results will be mailed about 14 business days after the water sample is received.

Additional information can be found at <http://healthvermont.gov/health-environment/drinking-water/radioactive-elements>

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Example Pictures

1. Prepare

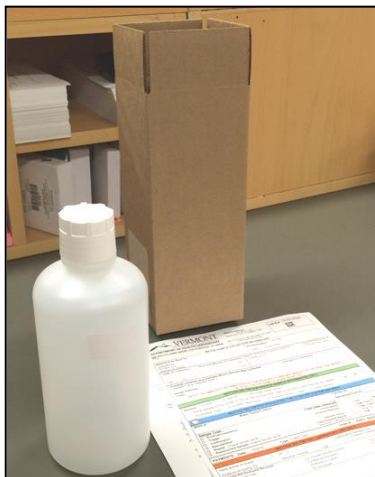


- Do not touch inside the cap or mouth of the bottle.
- Let the cold water flush at high flow for 3-5 minutes.
- Return water to medium flow before collecting the sample.

2. Collect



- Fill the bottle to the neck.
- Fill out paperwork (*CHEM 202*) including date and time sample was collected.
- For regulated Public Water Systems, list Facility ID & Sampling Point ID that are on monitoring schedule and provide sampling location information.
- Label the bottle so it can be matched with the correct paperwork.



3. Return

- Return sample to the lab within 48 hours of collection.
- Samples accepted during business hours (see physical address above).
- Samples can also be mailed to:
PO Box 1125 Burlington, VT 05402-1125