

Thank you for testing your drinking water. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at www.healthvermont.gov/water.



1. Prepare

- Put the freezer pack(s) in the freezer ahead of time.
- Plan to collect your sample the morning you drop it off.
- Go to the drinking water source you want to test.
- Do not touch inside the cap or mouth of the water sample bottle.
- Run cold water at **high flow for 3-5 minutes** to get rid of water that has been sitting in your pipes.
- Return water to **medium flow to collect your water sample**.

2. Collect

- Fill the sample bottle to the neck and screw the cap on tightly so it does not leak.
- Complete the [Water Sample Collection Information Form](#), including the date and time you took your water sample.
- If you use any **water treatment** in your water, describe it on the form (for example: water softener).

- Label the sample bottle so it can be matched with its correct form (for example: John Smith, kitchen sink).

3. Return

- Put **freezer pack(s)** and the tightly closed water sample bottle in the plastic bag or insulation sleeve provided.
- Put the plastic bag or insulation sleeve in a box with:
 - Completed [Water Sample Collection Information Form](#). We suggest putting the form inside a sealed plastic bag, so it does not get wet.
- To get your sample to the Health Department Laboratory for testing within **48 hours**, either:
 - **Bring it to the lab:** 359 South Park Drive, Colchester, Vermont (Monday to Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
 - **Drop it off at a District Office:** See the insert with addresses and pick-up times. Samples are only accepted **Monday – Thursday** and most pickup times are around mid-day. Must be sampled same day as drop-off.
 - **Overnight by USPS:** PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125. **Do not send by mail on a Friday or Saturday.**

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I make sure I send a sample that is acceptable for testing?

Sometimes we receive samples that need to be “qualified”, which means the sample doesn’t meet all the testing requirements. Here are a few [things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample](#):

- Submit your sample in the water sample bottle provided by the laboratory.
- Don’t send a sample that has a strong chlorine smell – too much chlorine can interfere with some tests.
- Make sure to completely fill out the Water Sample Collection Information Form.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within 48 hours from the time you filled the water sample bottle.
- Use freezer packs and a cooler to keep the temperature of your water sample less than 42 degrees F (6° Celsius) – cold, but not freezing – until it reaches the laboratory.

When can I expect my test results?

Test results will be mailed about 7 business days after the water sample is received.

Where can I get more information about the health effects of the contaminants in my drinking water?

For more information, and to see a video about how to test your drinking water, visit healthvermont.gov/water.