Buncombe County
Environmental Health Services

Directions For Collecting Water Sample

1. When collecting a distribution tap sample, the water in the service line should be completely flushed. Do not sample from taps surrounded by excessive foliage (leaves, flowers, etc) or taps that are dirty, corroded or leaking. Never collect a sample from a hose or any other attachment fastened to a faucet. The sample bottle should never come in contact with the faucet. Do not lay the sample container lid down, splatter water on the lid or container, and never touch the inside of the container or lid.

2. The water sample to be tested for bacteria must be collected in the sterilized bottle you received when you applied. The bottle contains a dechlorinating agent, sodium thyosulfate. If the bottle is damaged or the lid is loose, do not use the bottle. Contact this office for replacement.

3. It is best to take your sample from a frequently used distribution tap such as the kitchen faucet.

4. Before taking sample, let the water run from the tap 5 minutes. You may flame the tap with a lighter after removing any strainers or aerators.

5. When taking the sample, let nothing but the water itself come in contact with the mouth of the bottle or the inside of the cap. Fill the bottle at least to the 100 ml line, but do not fill bottle completely. Leave ½ inch of air space at the top of the bottle.

6. Forward all samples to the laboratory immediately after collection. Samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of the collection to be reliable so it is important that you hand deliver the sample back to the Department of Health Lab at 40 Coxe Avenue. Do not mail samples

7. If the sample is not returned to the Lab within 1 hour of collection, it should be refrigerated until it is brought in. Samples over 30 hours old cannot be tested.

8. Do not place a label or sticker on the side of the bottle. If the bottle must be labeled, mark or label the cap.

9. Please make sure that you have filled out the Bacterial Analysis form completely.

******Samples are accepted in Lab: **Monday thru Wednesday** **8:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Thursday **8:00 am - 12:00 pm**
No samples on Friday

******When returning sample, there will be kiosk on right, will choose Environmental Health option on screen, you will get a number and someone from the lab will get your sample.**