

Sample Collection for Nitrate and Inorganic Chemicals

You should have received one or more collapsible cube container(s) along with this instruction sheet and a Chain of Custody / Water Sample Information form. Please do not open container(s) until sample is to be taken.

1. Remove cap and inflate cube container by blowing into the opening.
2. If sampling from inside residence, remove all attachments and/or filters from the faucet before taking the sample. Turn on *cold water only*. Do not take sample from a hose or hot water faucet.
3. If you are sampling for *lead and copper* or other metals from your plumbing, take the sample(s) first thing in the morning without running the water first. Water should have been standing for at least six hours but not more than twelve hours. The sampling location should be from where you draw most of your drinking water.
4. For nitrate and most other inorganics, sample directly from a point representative of the source, after treatment, and prior to entry to the distribution system. Exceptions include lead/copper and chloride sampling. Please ask for more specific instructions if you are unsure of where to collect your sample.
5. Make sure cap is secured tightly. Label container(s) with name, address, or other identifier. Keep sample(s) in the refrigerator or on ice until returned to the lab.

Complete the Chain of Custody / Water Sample Information form with name, address, phone number, date and time of collection, location and source of sample(s), analysis needed, and public system information if required. Standard turn-around time for results is six-ten working days from receipt of sample unless arrangements are made (this time may vary depending on the analysis). If testing is a compliance sample for a public water system, the lab will send a copy of the report directly to the Washington State Department of Health.

Return samples to the laboratory within 48 hours after sampling.