

# Well Education & Testing

## *Keeping Your Well Well in 2015*

WET invites you to take a look at the health of your well and learn about keeping your drinking water safe. Washington State Department of Health recommends annual testing of individual wells for fecal coliform bacteria; testing your water is the best solution to identify possible contamination. WET provides homeowners with a local, inexpensive way to test their well water.

To insure accurate results it is very important that the sample collection procedures are carefully followed!

Fill out the lab form completely, down to the “**drinking water results**” section, pressing firmly with a black pen. Be sure the form is filled out completely including the **correct date and time of collection**.

### **Keep Sample Bottle Sterile**

Your sample bottle has been sterilized. For accurate testing, it is important to keep it free from contamination. If you accidentally contaminate it, please return it for another sterile bottle. Do not boil the bottle or put anything inside it except your sample.

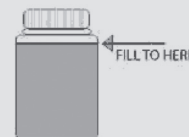
*You may see moisture in the bottle — it is supposed to be there. Do not place tape or mark or write on the bottle in any way.*

### **Sample Collection Procedure:**

- Select a faucet (preferably a non-swivel type) in the bathroom or kitchen.
- Remove any filters or screens from the faucet tap.
- Turn on the cold water and let it run for at least five minutes.
- Turn off the water.
- Disinfect the tap by flaming around the orifice with a butane lighter or matches.
- Hold the flame back from the tap so that the flame won't discolor it. *If you do not have a lighter or your tap is made from plastic or rubber, you may slowly pour boiling water over the tap to thoroughly heat it. This heating kills bacteria on the faucet that might accidentally contaminate your sample.*
- Turn the cold water back on for a few seconds to cool the tap.
- Adjust the water to produce an even flow.
- Remove the cap from the sample bottle.

### **Do not set the cap down or touch the inside of the cap or bottle.**

- Fill the sample bottle to the shoulder only.
- We cannot test the sample if the bottle is too full.
- **Do not** let the faucet touch the bottle.
- Re-cap the bottle and deliver to the collection station.



### **Do Not Heat Your Sample**

Keep your water sample out of the sunlight and heat, especially when transporting it in your car. We recommend transporting it in a cooler with ice. A warm sample can change your sample results.

This test is for coliform bacteria only (including E. coli and/or fecal coliform). If you want your water tested for minerals or other chemicals, let us know, and AmTest will provide information about fees.

**Collecting Other Samples —Rivers, reservoirs, swimming pools**

- Select a spot where a representative sample can be taken.
- Remove the cap from the sample bottle and collect the sample by submerging the bottle completely in the water. *Do this in a continuous sweeping motion, extending the mouth of the bottle into the water and sweeping to a depth of approximately 1 1/2 feet.*
- Continue the sweep to the water surface and above.
- Carefully pour off the water above the shoulder of the bottle, and then replace the cap without touching the mouth of the bottle.

With a rubber band, attach payment, lab form and the information portion at the bottom of this page to the sample bottle. Place in a waterproof bag and deliver to one of the following locations (locations are in conjunction with State of the Oyster sample collection) between noon and 2:30 p.m. only on dates listed:

- **Hunter Farms**  
1921 E. State Route 106, Union
- **Happy Hollow Store**  
15280 E. SR 106, Belfair
- **QFC parking lot**  
1403 Old Belfair Highway, Belfair
- **The Purdy Park & Ride**  
6519 144th St NW, Gig Harbor

**Want more info?**

Contact Teri King or Jennifer Runyan,  
Washington Sea Grant, University of Washington  
360.432.3054, [wsgcanal@uw.edu](mailto:wsgcanal@uw.edu)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Date: (circle date): May 17      June 14      July 5      August 2

Coliform sample \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00)    Make checks payable to AmTest Laboratories

Collection address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

