

Nitrate

SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Reference Method EPA 353.2

Read instructions carefully.

Samples may be rejected if all instructions are not followed.

- **Safety concerns:**
- **Caution!** Sample bottles contain chemicals. Open containers slowly and carefully. Do not rinse out containers.
 - View [Safety Data Sheets](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/envlab/sdsinformation.html)
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- **Sample bottle/Preservative:**
 - 125 mL bottle/clear cap with 2.5 mL of 10% Sulfuric Acid (H₂SO₄)
- **Shipping/sample hold time:**
 - Ship within 7 days. The sample must arrive at the laboratory within 28 days of collection.
- **Sampling locations:**
 - First sample tap following treatment (treated water).

Sample collection procedure:

1. Attach the pre-printed label to the bottle. If you do not have a pre-printed label, write the following information, using a ballpoint or permanent pen, on the generic bottle label: PWSID, PWS Name, and Location ID.
2. Remove any attachments from the sample tap.
3. Turn on the cold water tap and run for 4 to 5 minutes, or until the water temperature has stabilized, whichever is longer.
 - a. If there is only one faucet handle, make sure it is in the cold water position.
4. Reduce the flow of the water so the stream is steady and the width of a pencil.
5. Remove bottle cap and hold in hand. Do not touch the underside of the cap or the inside of the bottle.
6. Fill bottle to the shoulder. **DO NOT** overfill the container.
7. Cap bottle securely and agitate for 15 seconds.
8. Replace any attachments that were removed from the faucet or sample tap.

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Complete Chain-of-Custody form using ballpoint or permanent pen:

1. Name of the sample collector.
2. Date and Time collected (include a.m. or p.m.).
3. Field Number (if applicable).
4. Put your signature on the "Relinquished By" line, including date and time. The date and time are when the sample is put in the return mailer and sealed. If samples pass hands prior to packaging, both parties must sign, date, and time. The first party would put down the date and time of the transfer, and the second party would put down the date and time the sample is packaged.

Shipping and handling:

1. If dropping off at the laboratory a physical hand-off is required.
2. Prepare package for shipping.
 - a. Place the bottle, with pre-printed label attached, in the mailing container.
 - b. Place completed Chain-of-Custody in the provided zip-lock bag and insert into the container.
3. Ship to the Public Health Laboratory:

Courier Service (Spee-Dee, UPS, FedEx, etc.)

Minnesota Department of Health
Public Health Laboratory
Environmental Sample Receiving
601 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2531

U.S. Postal Service – 1st Class

Minnesota Department of Health
Public Health Laboratory
Environmental Sample Receiving
P.O. Box 64899
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0899

If you have questions, call 651-201-4700, or email health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health
Drinking Water Protection
651-201-4700
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To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700.