




Hays County Development Services
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HOW TO COLLECT A WATER SAMPLE

Samples are extremely easy to contaminate. Please read these instructions completely before attempting to collect a water sample. Follow these instructions exactly to ensure the collection of a pure sample.

1. You must use a sample container provided by a Texas Department of Health (TDH) approved laboratory. **Do not use a container from home.**
2. Find a proper location to take the sample.
 - An outside faucet that does not leak is preferable (avoid rubber hoses, fire hydrants, dirty areas and area behind bushes). 
 - Do not use the kitchen or bathroom sinks.
 - Avoid sampling on extremely windy days or when it is raining.
3. Turn on the water and let it run for at least five minutes. Turn off the water.
4. Using a propane torch, lighter or a bleach and water solution in a spray bottle (1 part bleach, 5 parts water), disinfect around the threads and inside of the faucet.



- **Do not use a propane torch or lighter if your hose bib is made of plastic or rubber.**
 - Hold the flame back from the hose bib to prevent discoloring or damaging of the faucet.
 - Hold the flame near the hose bib for 8 – 10 seconds to properly disinfect.
5. Turn the faucet on and let it run for 2 minutes.
 - While the faucet is running, thoroughly wash your hands and dry them with a clean towel. It is recommended that you wash your hands inside your home.
 6. Reduce the flow to a slow stream that will be easy to capture in the bottle.
 7. Carefully open the sample container and **do not** rinse it out. The sample bottle contains a small amount of sodium thiosulfate to neutralize chlorine in the water.
 - **Do not touch the inside of the container or the inside of the lid.**
 8. Carefully fill the container to the 100ml line. Close the container and turn off the water.



9. Place the sample container on ice and deliver it to the lab as soon as possible.
 - **The Texas State University lab does not accept water samples on Fridays.**