

FHA/VA SAMPLING INFORMATION

1) General: The FHA/VA sampling kit consists of (3) three containers:

- (1) 1 quart sized plastic bottle for lead analysis
- (1) 1 pint sized plastic bottle for nitrate and nitrite analysis
- (1) sterile whirlpak container for bacteria analysis

2) Sampling Container Preparation:

Write name and sampling date on bottle labels and white area on sterilized whirlpak baggie. Use ink pen, being careful not to puncture the baggie.

3) Site Selection:

Sites, water spigots should be chosen carefully to obtain a representative sample of well water. However, precautions must be taken to choose a spigot that will not contaminate the sample. Spigots to be avoided include:

- 1) Spigots that are not used on a regular basis, with possible visible algae growth.
- 2) Spigots with leaking packing nuts or cracks.
- 3) Spigots with non-removable aerators, screens, or filters.
- 4) Spigots connected to plumbing in or around bathrooms.
- 5) Spigots that come after a whole-house softener or filter system.

The kitchen sink spigot is usually the best choice. However, for single lever faucets make sure cold water only is run. All aerators, screens, and filters should be removed or placed in bypass prior to sampling. New wells, or wells that have not been used recently, should be run before sampling to flush stagnant/contaminated water from the system.

4) Sampling Procedure:

The one quart plastic bottle for lead analysis needs to be filled first. The EPA recommends a minimum stagnation time of 6 hours prior to sampling for lead. Ackuritlabs recommends sampling in the early morning or early evenings after work to ensure that stagnant water conditions exist. After sampling for lead (filling 1 quart container), let water continue to run for about five minutes or longer for little used spigots or wells. The water velocity should be reduced to a pencil sized stream prior to sampling and adjusted to avoid water from running around the threaded portion of the spigot head. Once the water velocity has been established, fill the 1 pint bottle. The whirlpak sample baggie should be filled by tearing off the perforated top and the paper tabs used to open the baggie with care taken to avoid contact with the baggie lip. The whirlpak should then be filled without touching it to the spigot and then closed with a twirling motion flipped end over end using the weight of the water and then secured shut by twisting the wire tabs together. Place samples on ice and return to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Bacteria samples must be analyzed within 24 hours from sample collection.