



North Island Laboratories

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General Notes

Real Estate/Financial Transactions:

It is our understanding that bacterial analysis of drinking water is sufficient to meet the requirements of potability testing as specified by CMHC/other financial institutions. It is recommended that parties requesting drinking water testing as directed by a third party determine exactly what tests are necessary to meet any specific requirements.

Additional analyses may be appropriate to ascertain true potability dependent upon other factors specific to the well/water source in question. Refer to our price list or contact North Island Labs directly for further information regarding additional water tests. Call us toll free at 1-877-533-3313 if you have any questions.

Regarding Recently Disinfected/Shocked Wells:

Please be aware that a sample taken shortly after a well has been disinfected with bleach may not be representative of long term water quality. You should wait ten days before testing the water again.

Sample Containers

Containers are available from both our locations. We will be happy to provide them to you free of charge.

If you are unable to visit us to pick up bottles you can use your own provided that any container used for bacterial analysis is sterile. You can sterilize a small glass jar (250mL) by boiling it and its lid in water for 10 minutes.

Any clean plastic 500mL bottle will suffice for *most* other testing. When in doubt, bring an extra bottle of sample water. Please see the price list for testing packages and their container requirements.

Sample Collection

Water that is tested should be representative of the water that will be consumed, therefore we suggest sampling at the kitchen tap.

1. Let the water run about 5 minutes
2. Label the bottle with your name and the date and time you are taking the sample.
3. Remove the cap and set it down rim side up.
4. Fill the bottle without letting it overflow
5. Cap the sample and place it the fridge or a small cooler with an icepack.

Remember: If you are testing for bacteria it is important that you not contaminate the sample as you handle the container. Wash your hands before you start and be careful not to touch the rim of the bottle or the inside of the lid.

DON'T:

- Don't rinse or boil any bottle you receive from the lab
- Don't let the sample sit out on the counter overnight, please refrigerate.
- Don't freeze the sample

Sample Transportation & Delivery

1. Samples should arrive at the lab (*Courtenay) within 24 hrs of sampling.
2. The sample should be kept cool (refrigerated or packed on ice).
3. Fill out the requisition form on the back of these instructions and submit with the sample.
4. **If you are using the Nanaimo office submit the sample by 11 am Monday – Friday.**

Payment

Payment is due at time of sample submittal. Please add tax to the prices listed. Cash, cheque and debit are accepted methods of payment.

At this time third party billing is not offered.