

General Guidance on Water Quality Testing



The following forms a guide to collecting a representative water sample for analysis by B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. laboratory. Please note that the sampling methodology for other laboratories/test parameters will be different as alternative sample bottles contain different fixing agents which require different sampling processes.

- Before sampling an irregularly used borehole or well – pump / **PURGE** at least 3x the volume of water in the borehole or well before sampling. (1 well volume = (Plumbed depth of borehole base minus rest water level [both to below ground level]) * π * borehole radius * borehole radius) – we are always happy to calculate this for you – Just Ask!
- If sampling from a domestic source - take the sample from the kitchen sink or the point where the household take water for drinking/food preparation. Run the tap for 5-10 minutes **BEFORE** sampling. Make sure any cleaning chemicals are washed off by the water from the tap before sampling.
- Only use sample bottles provided by B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. unless otherwise agreed.
- For bacteria tests **DO NOT** remove the lid from the sample bottle until immediately before filling, and avoid touching the inside of the lid or the bottle to minimise the risk of contamination.
- If the bottle is 1 litre square, with a white cap, **RINSE** out the bottle before sampling, with only the water to be sampled.
- Fill the bottle as full as possible, to exclude any air, and replace the lid immediately, without touching the inside of the lid. If the lid feels loose, you may wrap the top with tape.
- Mark the sample bottle in indelible pen with sample date and time, and site name as a minimum.
- Fill in paperwork (BAHS can provide electronically to be printed out) with as much detail as possible on the date and time the sample is taken, as well as where the sample is from, i.e. raw borehole and depth, raw water storage tank, post treatment tank, customer tap post-treatment, mains water etc., and an address / postcode for the site. Please state if you require chemical and / or bacteriological analysis. Send with the sample in the post.

- **Samples must arrive at B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. lab less than 24 hours after sampling.** We therefore recommend samples are taken late afternoon allowing enough time to be sent by **1ST CLASS SPECIAL DELIVERY (next day before 1pm)** post which costs around £11.
- B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. lab **cannot accept samples over the weekend.** If a sample is received late in the week which requires 3-day bacterial testing, additional charges may apply if staff is required to attend the lab over the weekend.
- Refrigerate samples if there is a delay between sampling and posting. If possible, send sample packed with a frozen/cool chiller pack (provided where requested).
- Water quality analysis of samples arriving more than 24 hours after sampling may not be reliable or valid. B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. may refuse to test such samples if it is apparent they have degraded. Normal charges apply if it transpires the sample was 'old' or invalid if not apparent to B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. at the time of testing.
- **Email or call B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. at the time of sending** to advise that a sample is being sent so that time in the lab can be reserved for your analysis.

B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd. laboratory services
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