

Lincoln County Health Department

Water Sample Collection Tips

Before collecting a water sample for testing, please read the following collection tips. Improper collection can lead to contaminated water which causes unreliable and inaccurate testing results. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at 509.725.1001 or via email to Lucy Sheridan, at lsheridan@co.lincoln.wa.us

- Complete the information slip with the information you know, leaving any unknown fields blank.
- Water testing twofold: We first test to see if there is bacteria present. If the test comes back positive, we then test specifically for *E. coli*.
- The lab accepts samples until noon on Thursday.
- Collect your sample within 30 hours of bringing it to the lab. Water samples older than 30 hours are not able to be tested.
 - Example: If you want your water tested on Wednesday at noon, the sample collection window opens at 6 am on Tuesday. Water collected any time before Tuesday morning would not provide a valid result.
- Testing takes 24 hours, so results are available the next business day, around noon. Test results are sent via mail or email, based preference noted on the information sheet.
- When collecting the sample, do not remove the white powder that is already in the bottle. This powder is part of the testing.
- Collect water to the 100mL line on the bottle. Samples less than 100mL do not provide enough to be tested.
- Tightly close the sample bottle.
- Once collected, place the bottle and information slip into the brown tube which came with the test kit.
- Please do not write on the brown tube.
- The water lab is state certified for bacteria testing; however, we can also test for nitrate and fluoride levels upon request.

Follow these tips to ensure the collected sample and following testing are valid. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lucy Sheridan. Thank you!

