



Inyo County Environmental Health Department 760-878-0238

1360 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Inyo County ELAP Certified Water Lab 760-878-0234

168 North Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526

Instructions on how to take a water sample:

Step 1: Go to the county building in Bishop or Independence and pick up the approved water sampling containers. Take 2 just in case you drop or contaminate the bottle. The bottle will have some white powder in it, that is to neutralize any chlorine that is in the water. You will also need to pick up a lab slip that will be in the same location as the bottles. The lab slip allows you to log up to 5 samples.



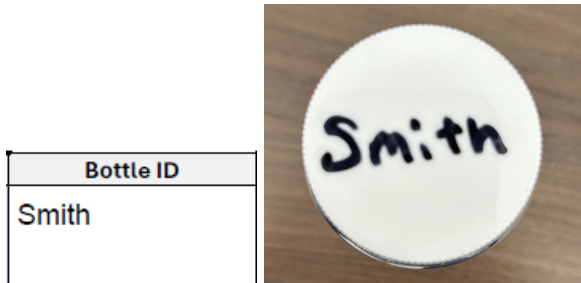
Step 2: Pick a location that you plan on taking the sample from, faucet, hose spigot or sample tap. Do not take a sample that runs through a hose. When taking a sample from a kitchen sink or bathroom faucet make sure you can remove the aerator. **If the water has chlorine you will need to find out how many residual Parts Per Million number to place on the lab slip.**

Step 3: Run the water for 1-2 minutes, if it is an outside source using fire to sterilize the end can be beneficial. Place fire on the end of the hose spigot or sample tap for 5-10 seconds.

Step 4: Make sure you keep track of the time you take the sample. Take the clear plastic off the bottle. Remove the cap, being very careful not to touch the rim or threads of the top of the bottle. **Do not set the cap down on any surface.** Hold the cap facing down from how you took it off the bottle so that bacteria and dust in the air cannot settle on the inside of the cap. **VERY IMPORTANT: FILL THE WATER TO THE 100ML LINE ON THE BOTTLE OR ABOVE IT.** **If the water is below the line your sample will be rejected.**

[Turn over for more instructions](#)

Step 5: With a permanent marker place a Bottle ID on the cap. **Do not write a lot on the bottle cap.** Place an identifying mark that ties the bottle to the lab slip. Example: numbers from address where sample is taken, road name from where the sample was taken, last name of customer.



Step 6: Fill out the lab slip.

Sample Collection Location	Sample Date & Time	Bottle ID	Sampler Init.
111 Howard Street, Bishop West Hose Spigot	1/1/2024 10:38 AM	Smith West Spigot	JS
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potable <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Residual: 02 PPM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P/A <input type="checkbox"/> QT <input type="checkbox"/> QT2000
111 Howard Street Bishop Kitchen Sink Faucet	1/1/2024 1:05 PM	Smith Sink	JS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat <input type="checkbox"/> Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potable <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Residual: PPM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P/A <input type="checkbox"/> QT <input type="checkbox"/> QT2000

Test Types:

P/A- This helps to check to see if you have presence of bacteria or not. It is the least expensive test. We recommend you start with this test first. If you get presence of bacteria, you should contact our department, well driller or a water treatment operator. You should trouble shoot with someone on why you may have a positive sample before retaking it. Once the problem area is possibly found, then you will retest and see if the water sample is negative.

QT/QT2000- These tests are to see how many bacteria are present. These tests are usually performed on surface water samples or samples that have had positive P/A's. They are slightly more expensive.

Chlorination- If you have a private well on your property and you know you have not added chlorine to the well, you should not have chlorine present. If chlorine has been added to the well then, a chlorine test kit with meter will need to be used to find out the PPM and noted on the water lab slip. Chlorine is not naturally present in water.

Please contact the health department at 760-878-0238 or the water lab 760-878-0234 if you need any help.