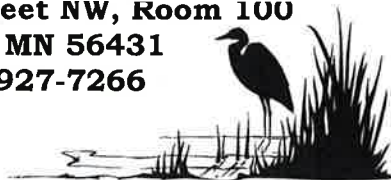


AITKIN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
209 Second Street NW, Room 100
Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 927-7266



Effective March 1, 2018:
Aitkin County will no longer invoice water test payments.

Samples accepted **Mondays and Tuesdays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM**

Daycare and Foster care samples only accepted on pre-scheduled drop off dates

Samples must be in the sterile Whirl-Pak bag that is provided by Aitkin County and **delivered on ice**

Bacteria must be tested within **30** hours of sampling and Nitrates within **48** hours of sampling

Please note: If a personal check is written to pay for the test, results will not be released until the check clears, this may take up to 3 weeks or longer. Results will be released within 2-3 days for payments made online with a credit card, debit card, eCheck or cash. Minimal convenience fees will apply for online payments. Online payments can be made at the Planning and Zoning desk when sample is dropped off.

Collect sample the same day you are bringing it in. Please follow instructions on the back for collecting the water sample. Fill out the following information and return this sheet with the water sample.

Date sample was taken _____ Time Taken _____ AM / PM

Sample collected by _____ Sample Source _____
(ex. kitchen faucet, outdoor tap)

Analysis requested: _____ Coliform Bacteria/E. coli _____ Nitrate Nitrogen

Owner _____ Phone (____) _____

Property Address _____
City _____, MN Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ (Optional)

Mailing Address _____
(if different) _____

Results to: Property Address Mailing Address Realtor Email Address
 Financial Institution

Realtor or Financial Institution Name and Email or Fax number: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Date received: _____ Time received: _____ AM/PM

Receiving temperature: _____ ° F On ice (circle): YES or NO Receiving Initials _____

Analysis fee: _____ Sampling fee: _____ Paid: _____ Internal Sample No _____

NOTE: If sample DOES NOT meet acceptance criteria then document reason(s) based on conversation with customer or attach documentation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING DRINKING WATER SAMPLES

Use only the Whirlpack bag Aitkin County provides for collecting sample

\$25 Bacteria water analysis fee (Coliform and E. coli)
\$25 Nitrate water analysis fee

\$40 If both Bacteria & Nitrate are analyzed (\$10 savings)

\$50 minimum collection charge if Aitkin County collects the sample for you, then \$50 per hour beyond 60 minutes travel time to and from the courthouse in Aitkin.

Daycare & Foster care samples – makes checks payable directly to AW Research, 2017 rate \$38.

Nitrite
Lead

FHA and some lenders may require H₂O testing for nitrite and lead.
Special sampling methods required. Call A.W. Research at 218-829-7974

1. Try to sample from primary drinking water tap or sampling point closest to the well. Remove aerator and o-rings on faucet if present. Turn on just the cold water and let run for 10 – 15 minutes before collecting sample.
2. Sterilize faucet. Many faucets have plastic parts; heat sterilizing can ruin these types of faucets. Isopropyl rubbing alcohol or a bleach and water solution (approximately one tablespoon bleach per gallon of water) can be used to sterilize the faucet. Immerse end of faucet for about one minute or spray sanitizing solution onto faucet spigot. Pre-packaged sterile isopropyl alcohol wipes can also be used.
3. If flaming to sterilize faucet, make sure it is metal. If using a candle (don't use matches) then hold the flame under the end of the faucet for about one minute. If using a larger fire source such as a butane torch then sterilize for just a few seconds
4. Tear off the top of the bag along the score line when the water is ready to be collected. Once opened, handle the bag only by the white tabs or the ends of the wire twists. The bag lip should not be touched. Catch the water sample, being careful not to touch the bag to the faucet.



A. Opening:
Tear the top off at the scored line.



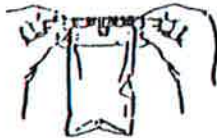
B. Separate the wires by pulling the tabs outward.



C. Separate wires further by pushing the ends toward the center of bag.



D. Filling and Closing:
Fill bag 2/3 to 3/4 full as shown.



E. Straighten wires by pulling on the ends of the wire.



F. Whirl the bag 5 complete revolutions and twist the ends of the wire together 2-3 times.

Bring H₂O sample in the same day it is collected. **Once collected, sample should be immediately refrigerated or placed on ice for transporting.** Sample temperatures greater than 46⁰ F will result in “estimated” value for nitrate. Warmer water temperatures may allow organisms to grow in the water giving a possible inaccurate reading. Sample temps < 28⁰ F will not be accepted.