

# HOW TO TAKE WATER SAMPLES



## IMPORTANT

**Chemical analysis ONLY**, the sample may be collected in any clean, sample rinsed 1-10 litre container.



**Microbiological analysis**, (*E.Coli*, *Total Coliforms*) the sample must be collected in a sterile container, provided in your kit.

**PLAN** your sampling date, time and sampling point

**DO NOT** include sediment or solids in your sample

**DO NOT** touch the inside of the cap or exposed neck of the bottle

**ALWAYS** wear gloves when taking a water sample

## SAMPLING

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Latex gloves
- Sampling Bottles - ensure you have enough sample for complete analysis to be done
- Microbiology Sampling Bottles - if applicable
- Cloth
- Bleach
- Lighter
- Permanent Labelling Marker
- Cooler box with ice packs
- GPS
- Jug/bucket with rope - where applicable
- Thermometer - where applicable
- Dissolved O2 meter - where applicable
- ORP meter - where applicable

### SAMPLE POINTS - PREPARATION

#### TAPS

##### CLEANING

- **Cleaning Metal Taps**, flame the spout for a couple of seconds with a lighter
- **Cleaning Plastic Taps**, clean with a cloth dampened by bleach/sanitize

##### PURGING

- **Purging indoor taps**, open the tap fully, allow water to run for 1 minute before sampling
- **Purging boreholes**, allow the water to run for at least 10 minutes before sampling
- **Purging new or stagnant pipes and boreholes**, purge pipes for 10 minutes, purge boreholes for at least 6 hours

#### BODIES OF WATER - Pool, dam, Reservoir

Take the sample by plunging the bottle, neck downward, below the water service

#### STREAM AND RIVER

Turn the bottle until neck points slightly upward and mouth is directed toward the current

### SAMPLING

**FILL** the bottle, leave at least 2 cm air space, replace the cap immediately

**LABEL** the sample with the date and sample point

### TRANSPORTATION & HANDLING

Samples must be transported on ice or with ice packs - temperature to be kept at  $\pm 1 - 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , not frozen within 24 hours of sampling for best results

**PLEASE NOTE:** If microbiological analysis (*E.coli*, *Total Coliforms*) is required, samples should be delivered, no later than 15h00 on Thursdays to allow for incubation periods.