



Olsen's Agricultural Laboratory, Inc.

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DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING WATER SAMPLES

1. Sterile bottles should be used when testing water samples. Small boxes containing the sample bottles can be obtained by contacting the laboratory. Each box includes a bottle that should be used for: 1) coliform bacteria test, 2) nitrate test, and 3) all other water tests. The bottles are labeled. An additional bottle for testing heavy metals is also available.
2. For drinking water, allow faucet to run 5-10 minutes before taking the sample. Irrigation wells should be sampled at the peak of the irrigation season.
3. Samples from new wells should be collected after the pipe and screen are in place. Pump the well for at least 10 hours before sampling. Samples of lakes, streams, and ponds should be taken from below surface.
4. Send the sample to the laboratory immediately after collection. Many analytes must be tested within a specified time and cooled while in transit to the lab. Contact the lab for further details.