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Bacteria Testing Information

Customers needing a well tested to close on a house usually need a Total Coliform Bacteria test. To have a well tested for coliform bacteria, the customer must:

1. Pay for and receive a sterilized bottle at the Central Laboratory (or Waterworks Administration Office if there is no one available in the Lab). The cost is \$25.00.
2. Collect the sample without letting anything but the well water touch the inside of the bottle. Detailed sample collection instructions are included with the sample bottle.
3. Complete the requested label information and affix the label to sample container:
4. Return the sample to the Central Lab **THE SAME DAY IT IS COLLECTED**. The lab accepts samples Monday – Wednesday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Thursday 8 Am – 12PM. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAY or THE DAY BEFORE A COUNTY HOLIDAY.**
5. Complete the shaded portion of a *Total Coliform Bacteria Analysis Request and Report* form.

This analysis takes 24 hours. The results will be available no sooner than 24 hours after the sample was delivered to the lab. Laboratory personnel will mail the results to the customer. If the customer needs the results immediately, he may call, or make arrangements with laboratory personnel to pick up the letter.

If the sample tests positive, the well will have to be retested. **The lab cannot give the customer a letter saying the well is OK until a retest is negative.** For the retest, the customer may pick up another bottle at the laboratory. The lab will perform one free retest.

Also, if the sample tests positive, the County recommends that the customer disinfect the well with chlorine bleach before collecting another sample. There is detailed information on the disinfection procedure at the lab, and the customer may get a copy when he picks up the retest bottle.