How To Collect A Water Sample

Water analyses can only be accurate if the sample is taken correctly. When collecting a water sample, please follow these simple guidelines:

CONTAINERS

Samples should be collected in a new clean, plastic bottle with a screw cap. Purchased 16-20 ounce drinking water bottles can be reused if you rinse the bottle three times with the water source to be submitted to the laboratory. Insure the cap is tight prior to shipping. Please note that the lab does not test for bacteria, pesticides, or petrochemicals. Clearly identify each bottle with a simple sample I.D. matching those used on the front side of this form. When mailing, place bottles in a box and pack with a loose, soft packing material to prevent crushing. Avoid glass containers, as boron concentrations may change, and glass has higher potential for breakage.

AQUACULTURE

Provide as much information as possible about the condition of the pond. If fresh water is running into the pond, collect the sample in the area of the pond least affected by the fresh water. When samples are taken from salt-water ponds where fresh water may have been added, gather water from both the top and bottom of the pond. The lab cannot test for dissolved oxygen, free carbon dioxide, or hydrogen sulfide, even though these criteria all affect fish mortality. These substances must be tested for on-site, and kits for conducting these tests are commercially available.

WELL WATER

Let the pump operate ten minutes to an hour before taking the sample. Take the sample as close to the pump as possible.

ASSESSING PROBLEM WATERS

Two separate water samples may be required to address water related problems due to plumbing and/or fixtures. One sample should be collected at the point of entry (well or water service) and another at point of use (faucet, pool and etc.). This sampling method will help pinpoint problematic plumbing.

LIVESTOCK

Collect samples from the specific area of the trough or pond where the water was consumed. Place these samples in a clean plastic container. In the event of sick or dead livestock, samples should be sent to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (979) 845-3414.

Hydroponic Solutions and Wastewater Effluents (not to be submitted on this form)

These analyses require digestion of the wastewater and are primarily designed to address potential fertilizer value of the material. ***These samples should be sent under the laboratory's biosolid submittal form.***

** **NOTICE:** Water samples will be tested for the salts commonly found in water. Interpretations will be given only for suitability for irrigation and consumption by livestock but not for human consumption. Our laboratory does NOT analyze for or organic compounds such as pesticides or petrochemicals, nor are saturated samples such as brines or seawater accepted. **Please do not acidify or use other water preservation chemicals.**

Payment and Mailing/Shipping

Payment options include the three options below.

1) Check or Money Order must be included with samples, 2) prepaid on Aggie Marketplace or 3) enter Ipayments Account Number for invoicing. A completed AG-257 must be on file with Texas A&M AgriLife Banking and Receivables for samples to be processed. Go to the laboratory website for easy access to the Aggie Marketplace payment option. Please note that the *price is per sample*.

- Address the package to the appropriate address:

Post Office only:

Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory
2478 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2478

FedEx, UPS and Freight Only:

Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory
2610 F&B Road
College Station, TX 77845
(979) 321-5960

Email: soiltesting@ag.tamu.edu Website: https//soiltesting.tamu.edu

Educational programs conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

W 25

WATER SAMPLE INFORMATION FORM

Please submit this completed form and payment with samples. Mark each sample bottle with your sample identification and ensure that It corresponds with the sample identification written on this form. *See sampling and mailing instructions on the back of this form.

(PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH)

SUBMITTAL AND INVOICE INFORMATION: This information will be used for all official invoicing and communication. **Sheet ___ of ____**

Name ____

County where sampled ____________________

Mailing Address ___________________________________

Phone __________________________

City __________________State____ Zip ______

Email*__________________________

CLIENT NAME: Client will be included on reports via a separate line with above information.

Name _______________________________

Lab Use only

Payment Options (DO NOT SEND CASH)
1)☐ Check/ Money Order (keep your M.O. receipt)
Amount Paid $________________Check Number ______
Make Checks Payable to: **Soil Testing Laboratory**
2)☐ Prepayment on Aggie Marketplace Payment
Order Number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ $ amount________
(Fill in last 7 digits of order number.)
3)☐ AG-257-Ipayments account number
55000000 _ _ _ _ _ (Fill in last 5 digits.)

***A $3.00 mail fee will be charged for all invoice and sample results mailed via USPS. Results and invoice can be emailed in PDF form for free.** **☐ email results** **☐Charge $3 for mailing**

Please email the laboratory at soiltesting@ag.tamu.edu during time of shipping samples to ensure a valid email address is on file for delivery of your results.

1. Routine Analysis (R) (201) (Conductivity, pH, Na, Ca, Mg, K, CO_3^{2-}, HCO_3^-, SO_4^{2-}, Cl^-, P, B, Nitrate-N. Hardness, and SAR)	**$25 per sample**
2. R + Metals (202) In addition to Routine Analysis includes: (Zn, Fe, Cu, and Mn)	**$40 per sample**
3. R + Titrate of Drip Irrigation (203)	**$33 per sample**
4. R + Metals + Titrate for Drip Irrigation (204)	**$47 per sample**
5. R + Metals + Heavy metals and Fluoride (205) **In addition to test number 2, includes As, Ba, Cr, Cd, F, Ni, Pb.**	**$75 per sample**
Hardcopy mailed to address listed above(1 to 100 samples)	**$3 per invoice**

The latest form can be downloaded at the laboratory's website: soiltesting.tamu.edu

The laboratory's website provides access to multiple water use and water quality publications.

Contact laboratory to determine services available beyond the suite of analyses listed to the left.

Pricing valid until 12-31-2025.

REQUIRED SAMPLE INFORMATION (one sample per row, sample IDs matching sample container) **(see options listed below)**

Laboratory # (For Lab Use)	**Your Sample ID**		**Water Source**	**Water Use:**	**Analyses**
		☐ Public **☐ Private**	**☐ Well** **☐ Pond** **☐ Lake** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "Other" water source**	**☐ Aquaculture** **☐ Irrigation** **☐ Livestock** **☐ Domestic** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "other" water use**	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5
		☐ Public **☐ Private**	**☐ Well** **☐ Pond** **☐ Lake** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "Other" water source**	**☐ Aquaculture** **☐ Irrigation** **☐ Livestock** **☐ Domestic** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "other" water use**	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5
		☐ Public **☐ Private**	**☐ Well** **☐ Pond** **☐ Lake** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "Other" water source**	**☐ Aquaculture** **☐ Irrigation** **☐ Livestock** **☐ Domestic** **☐ Other__________** **Please define your "other" water use**	☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5