

How To Take 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.

Wastewater Effluents (not to be submitted on this form)

This analysis involves digestion of the wastewater and is 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. Please do not acidify or use other water preservation chemicals.

PAYMENT

Payment must be included with samples, prepaid on Aggie Marketplace or a completed AG-257 must be on file 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*. The AG-257 is attached or can be located at <https://agrilifeas.tamu.edu/documents/ag-257.pdf>

Shipping information:

United States Postal Service

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

Email: soiltesting@tamu.edu

Other Couriers (FedEx, UPS and etc.)

Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory
2610 F&B Road
College Station, TX 77845
Phone: (979) 845-4816

Website: soiltesting.tamu.edu

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