

**How to Collect Samples :**

 1.     Collect samples just before getting them to the sample drop-off.  Samples must be less than 48 hours old for a valid nitrate result.

2.     Any small clean jar that will hold one ounce of water is sufficient.

3.     Fill out the water Sample Information Sheet. (Available online at [www.ogemawcd.org](http://www.ogemawcd.org), or at the screening event)  **We need a complete mailing address to get your results back to you.**

4.     Pick a tap that supplies water that has not run through any treatment device (water softener, carbon filter, etc.). An outdoor faucet often works well.

5.     Run the water for 20-30 minutes before collecting the sample.  This will give the pump time to flush the water pressure tank and plumbing so you can collect a valid sample.  Disconnect any hoses before collecting the sample; do not sample through a hose.  Rinse the sample bottle and lid thoroughly in the water to be sampled; then fill and cap the bottle.

6.     Label the bottle clearly with your name, the sampling date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc.) using a waterproof pen.  Put the sample information sheet into a waterproof bag, and then seal the water sample and the information into a second waterproof bag.

7.     Keep the sample dark and cold (on ice or refrigerated) until it is dropped off.