OGLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prevent • Promote • Protect

Water Testing

Recognizing the potential for transmission of waterborne diseases from private water wells and the importance of periodic sampling of drinking water from these sources, the Ogle County Health Department will accept water samples collected by the general public. These samples will be submitted to an EPA Accredited Laboratory. Lab fees must be paid at the time the water sample is received at the Health Department.

Approved water sampling bottles are available at the Ogle County Health Department for bacteria, nitrates and lead. If you wish to request another sample, please call 815-562-6976.

OPTION 1: You may collect your sample on Monday AFTER 10:30 AM and return to the Oregon office that afternoon before 4:30 PM or before 10:00 AM the next morning.

OR

OPTION 2: You may collect your sample on Tuesday morning and return to the Oregon office that day from 8:30 – 10:00 AM.

WATER MUST BE KEPT COLD UNTIL BROUGHT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Lab and handling costs are as follows:

- Bacteria (including E. Coli) Presence/Absence - $45.00
- Bacteria (including E. Coli) Count - $50.00
- Nitrate - $40.00
- Lead - $45.00
- Other samples must be requested.

In addition to this service, the Ogle County Health Department will provide water sample collection for an additional $50 trip charge or analysis for real estate transactions at a fee of $200, which includes lab fees for coliform bacteria and nitrates and septic inspection. This requires onsite inspection and certification of water well construction by qualified Health Department staff.

Please call Ogle County Health Department for questions and further information at 815-562-6976.

907 Pines Rd, Oregon, IL 61061
P: 815.562.6976 • F: 815.732.7458 • health@oglecountyil.gov
www.health.oglecountyil.gov

Collecting a Bacteria Water Sample

***Please read all of these instructions first!**

Only State approved laboratory-prepared bottles are to be used for samples. All water sample bottles are sterilized before distribution, and must be handled carefully to avoid contamination during the sampling process.

Sampling Point:
Select a sampling point as close as possible to the water supply source. If possible, select a faucet or pump-spout without a threaded outlet. Do not collect from garden hoses, dirty faucets or swing-type faucets where foreign material may contaminate the sample. Remove faucet screens or aerators before sampling. Do not collect softened water.

Proceed as Follows:
Cleanse hands. They should be free of soil or dirt. Cleanse surface of spout. It should be free of soil or dirt also. Do not touch the spout at the sampling point.

Before collecting sample open the tap and allow water to run at full flow until the pump starts, and then run water for several minutes. This allows water to be collected from the ground water supply, rather than water that has been in storage for a period of time. Slow the water flow down to the stream size of a pencil during actual collection to avoid contamination from splashing.

Carefully unscrew cap of bottle. Hold cap without touching inside edges of cap or neck of bottle. Do not attempt to clean or rinse bottle.

Next fill bottle to the marked 125mL fill line. Do not fill to rim, as you must leave air space in bottle. Immediately and carefully replace cap.

Complete the report form that was included with the bottle. Be sure to write date and time of collection, sampling point, name and address.

Any water sample which is determined to have chlorine residual will be discarded by the lab and fees forfeited.