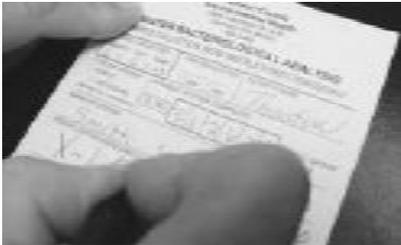


## Sampling Procedure Continued

### Step Eight:

Secure the lab slip to the bottle with the rubber band. Deliver the sample to a certified lab or to a designated drop-off location for the lab as soon as possible. Lab analysis must begin within 30 hours of sample collection.

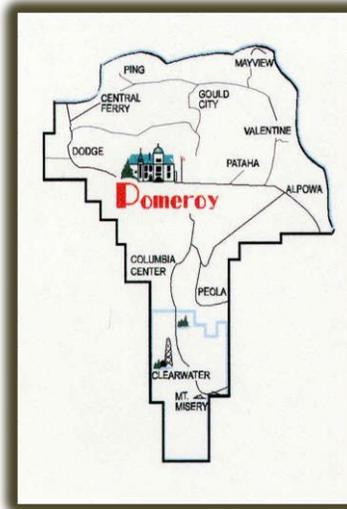


**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

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8am-12pm and 1pm-4pm



1/2016 - Revised from Adams County  
Health Department

*Garfield County  
Health District*

# Drinking Water

## Coliform Sampling Procedure



# Coliform Sampling Procedure

The following steps are recommended by the Garfield County Health District:

- A sample bottle
- A lab form
- A rubber band

## Step One:

Samples should be collected from sites throughout the distribution system. A sample tap should be chosen that best represents the water in your distribution system. Try to avoid swivel faucets, hot and cold mixing facets, leaky or spraying faucets, drinking fountains, janitorial sinks, frost-free hose bibs and faucets below or near ground level.

## Step Two:

Remove any attachments from the faucet. If you choose to disinfect the sample site prior to sample collection, be sure to thoroughly flush until all disinfectant is removed.



## Step Three:

Turn on the cold water only and let it run with a steady stream for at least five minutes. Before collecting the sample, turn the water down to a thin stream the size of a pencil and let the water run for a minute. If the system is chlorinated, measure the chlorine residual and note the results on the lab slip.



## Step Four:

There may be some liquid or powder in the sample bottle to neutralize any chlorine that may be present. **Do not** rinse it out.

## Step Five:

To avoid contamination while taking the sample, make sure to hold the bottle near the bottom with one hand, hold the top of the cap with the other, and then unscrew the cap. **Do not** set the cap down, touch any part of the cap that touches the bottle, or let anything touch the rim or inside of the cap.

## Step Six:

Hold the bottle under the stream of water being careful not to let the bottle touch the sample tap. Fill the bottle to the neck or indicated fill line, but do not allow it to overflow. Remove the bottle from the water flow and replace the cap.



## Step 7:

Complete the lab slip. If there was anything unusual about the sample collection, note it on the lab slip.

Laboratory forms vary, but the following information is very important to complete:

- Water system ID number
- Water system / property owners name
- Collection date and time the sample was taken
- Type of sample
- Sample location (street address or other type of location identifier)