

Step Six

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:

- Collection date and time the sample was taken
- Sample location (street address or other type of location identifier)
- Type of sample
- If treated, check type of treatment (e.g. chlorine).



Step

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.

Refrigerate the sample if you are unable to make delivery to the lab within 1-2 hours of sample collection.

If you have questions about coliform bacteria sample collection procedures, contact:

Michelle Cox

253 798-7683, mcox@tpchd.org

Richard Hoesch

253 798-6530, rhoesch@tpchd.org

Gary Porter

253 798-6569, gporter@tpchd.org

Rich Dickerson

253 798-2885, rdickerson@tpchd.org

General Inquiries

253 798-6470

How To Test Your Water For Bacteria

Steps for collecting a water sample to check for bacteria.....

This brochure provides general information on how to collect a water sample to check for coliform bacteria. “Coliform bacteria” is a general term used to describe a group of bacteria that are capable of causing illness in humans. “E.coli” is an example of coliform bacteria. The Health Department recommends that you test for coliform bacteria at least once a year.

Contact a certified laboratory for a water sampling kit which typically consists of:

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

Step One Choose a sample tap that best represents the water in your distribution system. Avoid poor sample sites such as swivel faucets, hot and cold mixing faucets (with a single lever), 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, including aerators, screens, washers, hoses and water filters. The TPCHD recommends disinfecting the faucet by spraying it with a chlorine water solution.

Step Three Turn on the cold water only and let it run in a steady stream for at least five minutes. Before collecting the sample, turn the water down to a thin stream (about the width of a pencil), then let the water run one minute.



Step Four To avoid contamination while taking the sample, 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 face down, touch any part of the cap that touches the bottle, or let anything touch the rim or inside of the cap.

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 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.

**TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Environmental Health Program
3629 South D Street, MS:312
Tacoma WA 98418-6813
253 798-6470

CHLORINATION PROCESS TO KILL BACTERIA

The following procedure may be used to provide a one-time shock chlorination of wells which have tested positive for coliform bacteria. This procedure should be done in the evening. The addition of bleach will affect the taste and the smell of the water. Turn electricity to the pump off.

1. Remove the well cap or unscrew the access port on the well. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department recommends contacting a water professional for this procedure.
2. Refer to the chart for the amount of bleach to add to your well. The amount of bleach is dependent on the size of your well casing and your well depth.
3. Mix the bleach with water before pouring into the well.
4. Pour bleach-water mixture into the well using a funnel.
5. The pump should be left off for 2 to 3 hours to allow the bleach a sufficient contact time to disinfect the well.
6. Turn on electricity to the pump. Turn on all inside faucets in all the homes using this water system, until you are able to smell bleach. Turn off the faucets and let sit overnight. This will bring the bleach through the lines to disinfect them.
7. In the morning or, after waiting 8 hours, run the outside faucets to begin to flush out the chlorine. Continue flushing until you can no longer detect a chlorine smell.
8. Repeat samples should not be taken until all chlorine is out of the system (no taste or odor). It may take 2 to 3-days for the chlorine to be completely flushed from your system.

TPCHD Contacts

Michelle Cox

253 798-7683, mcox@tpchd.org

Richard Hoesch

253 798-6530, rhoesch@tpchd.org

Gary Porter

253 798-6569, gporter@tpchd.org

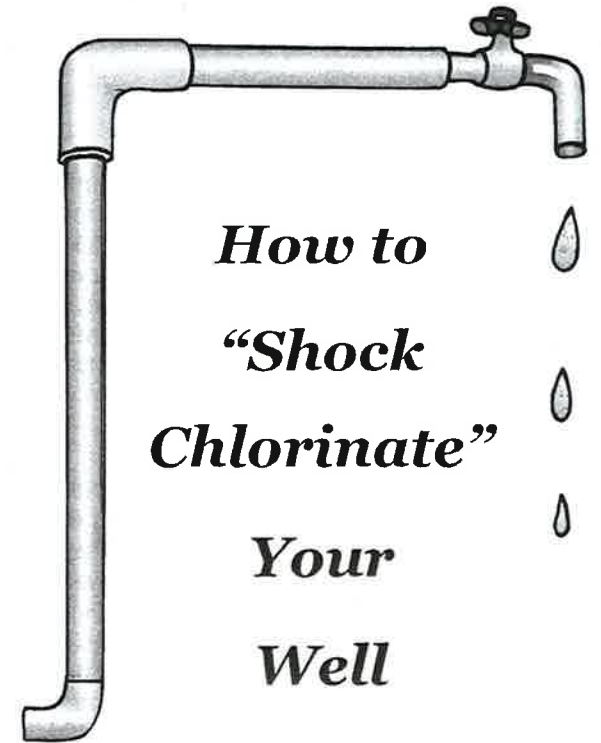
Rich Dickerson

253 798-2885, rdickerson@tpchd.org

General Inquiries

253 798-6470

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Environmental Health Program
3629 South D Street, MS:312
Tacoma WA 98418-6813



**How to
"Shock
Chlorinate"
Your
Well**



Tacoma | Pierce County
Health Department

Healthier. Safer. Smarter.
tpchd.org



Disinfecting Your Well

Regular testing of your well for coliform bacteria is an important part of ensuring a safe water supply and is vital to the operation and maintenance of your well. When you receive your test results from the certified lab, the report should indicate “satisfactory” results. However, an “unsatisfactory” result may mean you have disease causing bacteria in your water supply.

The information contained in this brochure is provided to assist you in the process of disinfecting your well. Following these simple steps should kill the bacteria in the well. If re-testing indicates that bacteria are still present in the water system, this may indicate that a more thorough assessment of the water system is needed. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department can help you with this process. Please contact us at one of the phone numbers listed in this brochure.

Disinfection using chlorine bleach is one of the most common ways to kill bacteria in water.

Type of bleach to use: The suggested amount of bleach to use in the table shown to the left is based on the use of standard household bleach which typically has a chlorine concentration of 5.25%. Avoid using “ultra” or concentrated bleach products which will have a much higher chlorine concentration and will result in over chlorination. It’s also recommended to avoid bleach products with additives or perfumes.



AMOUNT OF HOUSEHOLD CHLORINE BLEACH				
Well Depth	6-Inch Well Casing	8-Inch Well Casing	10-Inch Well Casing	12-Inch Well Casing
20	2 cups	3 cups	1 quart	1 quart
30	2 cups	3 cups	1 1/2 quarts	2 quarts
40	3 cups	1 quart	2 quarts	2 1/2 quarts
50	3 cups	1 1/2 quart	2 1/2 quarts	3 quarts
60	4 cups	2 quarts	3 quarts	4 quarts
80	1 quart	2 quarts	3 1/2 quarts	5 quarts
100	1 1/2 quarts	2 1/2 quarts	4 quarts	1 1/2 gallons
125	2 quarts	3 quarts	5 quarts	2 gallons
150	2 1/2 quarts	4 quarts	1 1/2 gallons	2 1/2 gallons
200	3 quarts	5 quarts	2 gallons	3 gallons
250	3 1/2 quarts	1 1/2 gallons	2 1/2 gallons	3 1/2 gallons
300	4 quarts	2 gallons	3 gallons	4 gallons
350	4 1/2 quarts	2 1/2 gallons	3 1/2 gallons	4 1/2 gallons

If you have a hand dug well, sand point, or spring please notify TPCHD for other procedures to disinfect your source.

A certified laboratory must conduct all water sample testing. Bottles and forms are available at the sites below. These sample pick up locations are not affiliated with the lab. They have offered to act as drop off location for samples as a community service. For information regarding fees and payment methods please contact the specific laboratory. Additional sites may be available in other Counties.

Spectra Laboratories
2221 Ross Way
Tacoma, WA 98421
(253)272-4850

Key Center Fire Station

8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay, WA 98349
1st and 3rd Tuesday, drop off samples by 10:00 am

Gig Harbor City Hall

3510 Grandview ST, Gig Harbor, WA 98335
1st and 3rd Tuesday, drop off samples by 10:00 am

76 Station (Barney & Bernies)

267th & Mountain HWY, Spanaway, WA 98387
2nd and 4th Tuesday, drop off samples by 9:00 am

Water Management Labs
1515 80th ST E
Tacoma, WA 98404
(253)531-3121

Enumclaw City Shops

2041 Railroad St, Enumclaw, WA 98022
Tuesday, drop off samples by 10:00 am

Washington Water Service, Co.

14519 Peacock Hill AVE NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Wednesday, drop off samples by 11:30 am

Hatton, Goat, Pantier

1840 Barnes BLVD SW, Tumwater, WA 98512
Thursday, drop off samples by 12:40 pm

Arcadia Drilling, Inc.

170 SE Walker Park RD, Shelton, WA 98584
Tuesday, drop off samples by 11:45 am
Thursday, drop off samples by 12:20 pm

Peninsula Light Co.

13315 Goodnough DR NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335
Wednesday, drop off samples by 11:30 am
Thursday, drop off samples by 11:30 am

Twiss Analytical Labs
26276 Twelve Trees Lane
Poulsbo, WA 98370
(360)779-5141

Cost Less Pharmacy

Lake Kathryn Shopping Center - Off 302
14218 92nd AVE NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98329
Wednesday 9:00 am - drop off by 7:30 pm on Tuesday

**For more information contact the
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Water Resources Program at 253-798-6470.**

Laboratories-Analytical

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department requires that any laboratory analyses for water evaluation be conducted by a laboratory certified by the Washington State Department of Health.

See the Yellow Pages in your directory

SPECTRA LABORATORIES

ENVIRONMENTAL & DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS
PETROLEUM & ENGINE OIL ANALYSIS
EXPERIENCED - FAST TURNAROUND - SINCE 1985
WASH. ST D.O.E. & D.O.H. ACCREDITED
www.spectra-lab.com
2221 Ross Way Tacoma-----253 272-4850

Twiss Analytical Laboratories Inc
26276 Twelve Trees Lane Suite C Plsbo --- 360 779-5141

WATER MANAGEMENT LABORATORIES INC

BACTERIAL & CHEMICAL ANALYSIS
DRINKING & ENVIRONMENTAL
WATER TESTING - D.O.H. - D.O.E CERTIFIED
FOOD & SHELLFISH ANALYSIS
SOIL & SLUDGE ANALYSIS
1515 80th St E----- 253 531-3121