

For more information

If you have questions about sample collection procedures, call the Department of Health Office of Drinking Water:

Eastern Region, Spokane
509-329-2100

Northwest Region, Kent
253-395-6750

Southwest Region, Tumwater
360-236-3030

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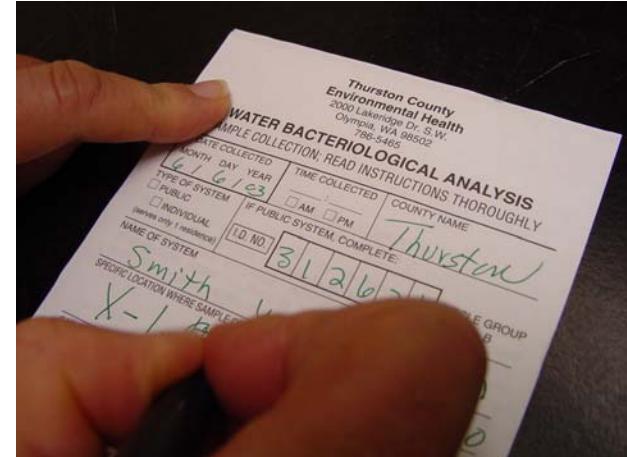
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Nitrate Sampling Procedure

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Nitrate Sampling Procedure

This brochure provides general information on how to collect a sample for nitrate. Steps and procedures can vary depending on the laboratory used, so you should follow the instructions provided by the laboratory you are using.



1 SYSTEM ID #	123456	2 SYSTEM NAME	Evergreen Water	3 CLASS	A B	4 COUNTY	King
5 SOURCE TYPE	Well Field						
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Well / Ground Water	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treatment from more than one source, let all	<input type="checkbox"/> Filtered	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerated	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluoridated	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
6 DOH SOURCE #	503	7 UTILITY'S NAME	Wellfield - Wells #2				
8 DATE COLLECTED	5/25/03	9 TIME OF COLLECTION	10:00	10 AM/PM	11 COLLECTED BY	WSDOH	
WHERE SAMPLE WAS TAKEN		pumphouse faucet - 4"					
INFORMATION (Applies to Multiple Sources Only) Sign and enclose the sample information form with your system. Sign and enclose the sample information form with your system.							

The general sampling procedure for nitrate monitoring is as follows:

The day before

Step One: Freeze the chemical cold pack.

Step Two: COMPLETE the laboratory form and sample label.

Laboratory forms vary. Be sure to include the following:

- Water system name
- Water system ID number
- System type (Group A or Group B)
- DOH source number (such as SO1)
- Sample purpose (usually "RC" for routine compliance sample)
- Date and time the sample was collected
- Sample location (specific location where you collected the sample. For example, "pump house tap.")
- Sample type (pre-treatment, raw, or post-treatment)

Sample Collection Day

Step One: Locate a sampling tap that is after treatment (if applicable) but before water enters the distribution system.

Step Two: Remove any attachment from the tap such as hoses, filters, screens, or aerators.

Step Three: Flush the water for about 5 minutes or until the water reaches a constant temperature.

Step Four: Fill the sample container to the shoulder of the bottle.



After completing sample collection

Keep all samples refrigerated until you are ready to ship them. When samples are ready for shipping, pack the samples, frozen chemical cold pack, and completed sample information form into a container and ship it to the laboratory within 24 hours.

Some county health departments and laboratories will pick up samples at a central drop-off location. Be sure to follow their schedule so that your samples reach the lab in time.