

# MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLING - BASIC PROCEDURES

## Taking a Routine Bacteria Sample Properly

### Step One



**Do Not Rinse The Bottle**  
The powder in the bottle is meant to be there and will not contaminate your sample.

### Step Two



**Wash Your Hands** prior to taking the sample. Then remove the sterile strip from the bottle.

### Step Three



**Remove Faucet Screen** and hoses and aerators from the end of the faucet. If possible avoid using a swivel faucet.

### Step Four



**Disinfect The Faucet** by dipping the end in the javex bottle cap full of bleach if “flaming” is not preferred.

### Step Five



**Run Cold Water 5 Minutes** to remove residue bleach solution.

### Step Six



**Turn The Water Down** and fill the sample bottle. Do not flush out the powder. Add water to the fill line only. Do not over-fill or under-fill. Do not breathe towards sample.

### Step Seven



**Screw Cap On Tightly** and take special care not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle. Otherwise redo the sampling.

### Step Eight



**Fill Out Paperwork, Send It In** and keep a copy for your files. Pack samples in containers to keep them cool (4 degrees C). Deliver to the lab the same day or within 24 hours.

If results indicate the presence of bacteria, re-sample and take corrective action if necessary.

Single-usage sanitary gloves can be worn as this further reduces the risk of external contamination of the water sample.