

HOW TO PREPARE A WATER SAMPLE FOR TESTING AT YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Most water testing that happens in the county Extension office is for homeowners who get their home's water from a well on the property. Rarely a homeowner on municipal water will have concerns and have their water tested. If your home has a well you should have that water tested annually. Only YOU are responsible for the safety of your well water.



Choose A Water Test.



UGA offers many, many types of water testing. This paper is to help explain the most common testing we handle in the county office. Find information about all UGA offers by visiting: <https://aesl.ces.uga.edu/water.html>. If you should have any questions, please call the Forsyth County Extension Office at 770-887-2418.

Annual Water Tests for Well Owners

Basic Water Test (W1)

W1 includes (pH, Hardness, P, K, Ca, Al, B, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Mo, Ni, SiO₂, Na, Zn).

Please follow three basic protocols when collecting a drinking water sample:



First draw water sample will be collected (after a minimum of 6 hours, but not more than 12-hour period) during which time there was no water usage prior to the sampling. The GA-EPD recommends that either early morning or evening upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure that the necessary stagnant water conditions exist.

A kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet is to be used for sampling.

If the primary concern is the well pump, draw the water from as near the well head as possible. Place a clean sample container below the faucet and gently open the cold-water tap. Please collect 2 cups of water in a clean container.

Deliver your sample of 2 cups of water to the Forsyth County Extension Office at 5110 Piney Grove Road, Cumming, GA 3004



Our office also encourages you to do a Microbiological Tests (W35), knowing the water from your well has no bacteria is important and we recommend you test every year.

Please call ahead for Microbiological Tests (W37, and W39), Radon (W44) and if you should need a Home Loan Closing Test (W33B). We do not always have these kits at the office and we may need to order it for you.

If you want to test for bacteria (E.coli or Coliform), the details are a little different. These samples are time sensitive and the Athens lab will only accept them Monday through Thursday.

First, you will stop by our office and pickup a special sample kit that includes the bottle to collect your sample. There is no charge to get this kit from us, you will pay the UGA Lab Directly.

Sampling instruction and sample delivery instructions to the UGA Lab are part of the form you will receive at the office. It is important that you follow the instruction for both sampling and delivery.

When you stop by the office to pickup the sample kit, we will discuss the details on either your use of an overnight delivery service or driving the sample to Athens.