



PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING

It is recommended that you test your well water seasonally (spring, summer, fall and winter). If you do not take seasonal samples, you should take 3 samples 1 to 3 weeks apart. A single sample is not representative of the quality of your well water. Please refer to the chart below for the locations where water testing kits can be obtained, as well as where water samples may be delivered to.

LOCATION	Water testing kit available?	Water samples can be dropped off?
Niagara Region Public Health Department 2201 St. David's Road, Campbell East, Thorold L2V 0A2	Yes	Yes
Niagara Region Public Health Department 5710 Kitchener St. Niagara Falls L2G 1C1	Yes	Yes
City Hall 66 Charlotte St, Port Colborne L3K 3C8	Yes	Yes
Township of Wainfleet 19M43 Hwy #3, P.O. Box 40 Wainfleet L0S 1V0	Yes	No
(*)Niagara Region Public Health Department 43 Hagey St. Fort Erie L2A 1W4	Yes	Yes
Niagara Region Public Health Department 540 King St. Welland L3B 3L1	Yes	Yes
West Lincoln Memorial Hospital 169 Main E, Grimsby L3M 1P3	No	Yes
Town of West Lincoln 318 Canborough St. Smithville L0R 2A0	Yes	No
(**)Long Beach Conservation Area 29L65 Lakeshore Road (R.R. #3) Wainfleet L0S 1V0	Yes	Yes

(*) Open half days: 8:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(**) Available Sundays (or holiday Mondays) only for drop off

How to Take a Water Sample

1. Proper sampling techniques (MOHLTC)

- I. Get a proper water sample bottle from the public health laboratory or your local public health unit, or one of the designated pickup stations in your area. Only water collected directly into these bottles will be accepted.
- II. Plan to sample your well water when you're sure you can deliver it to the public health unit or other designated location within 24 hours. Your water sample should not be left sitting for a long period of time as this can lead to inaccurate results.
- III. Remove any aerator, screen or other attachments from your faucet. Don't take a sample from an outside faucet or the garden hose. Take a sample from an inside tap with no aerator, such as the bathtub.
- IV. Disinfect the end of the faucet spout with an alcohol swab or dilute bleach solution (1 part household bleach to 10 parts water) before running water to remove debris or bacteria. Disinfecting the tap with a flame is not recommended because this can damage the faucet.
- V. Turn on cold water and let it run for 3 to 4 minutes to remove standing water from your plumbing system.
- VI. Remove the sample bottle lid:
 - don't touch the inside of the lid or put the lid down
 - don't rinse out the bottle.
- VII. Fill the bottle to the level that is marked, as described in the enclosed instructions, and close the lid firmly.
- VIII. Keep the sample cool (but not frozen) until it's returned to the drop-off location. Again, deliver the sample within 24 hours or it may not be processed. Remember that proper handling will help to make sure that your test results are accurate! Don't store samples in warm places such as your car trunk.
 - Note: Do not submit samples from high-risk water supplies, such as lakes, rivers or streams, unless water has been properly treated first.
 - Samples may be submitted Monday – Thursday (8:30 – 4:30). Samples are not accepted on Friday as they will not reach the Public Health Laboratory within the 48 hour limit. The Public Health Laboratory will mail the results within 5 to 10 days.
 - An automated phone line is available at 1-877-723-3426. You can call 4 to 5 business days after dropping off your water sample and enter your PIN number from the bottle.

1. Completing the form (MOHLTC)

- You must complete the form. Water will not be tested if the form is not completely and accurately filled in.
- Be prepared to supply the following information:
 - your daytime telephone number
 - the four-line detailed location, including postal code, of your water source
 - your public health unit number (see page 2 of water sample submission form)
 - an indication of how you wish to receive your results
 - the date the sample was collected
 - a complete mailing address for results.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Health Protection and Promotion Division at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7335

www.regional.niagara.on.ca