



# Sampling Your Private Well

1. **Read the *Drinking Water Parameters List* and decide what you need to test for. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DRINKING WATER BE TESTED FOR ALL HEALTH PARAMETERS BEFORE USE AND PERIODICALLY TO ENSURE SAFETY. TESTING ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS CAN BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING OVERALL SUITABILITY AND WATER TREATMENT OPTIONS.**
2. **Contact a laboratory from the enclosed list and enquire about lab costs, sample bottles and shipping arrangements. You may need to verify whether the laboratory accepts samples from private individuals.**
3. **Before collecting the water sample, prepare the sample site by:**
  - **Removing the faucet aerator/screen/gasket**
  - **Wiping the end of the faucet with an alcohol swab (if possible) and allowing it to dry**
  - **Running the cold water for at least 2 minutes, or until the water runs cold**
4. **Collect the sample:**
  - **Be sure not to touch the inside of the sample bottle lid, or otherwise contaminate the sample.**
  - **Do not dump out the powder inside the sample bottle**
  - **Keep the sample cold while transporting it to the lab**
  - **If chlorinating the distribution system before sampling, be sure to completely flush all chlorinated water out before the sample is collected**

*Sometimes resampling will be necessary to adequately assess water quality*

**Contact a Drinking Water Officer for questions or assistance.**

Dan Glover Powell River 604-485-3335	Tim Adams Sechelt 604-885-8711	Cindy Watson Sea to Sky 604-892-2293	Len Clarkson Squamish 604-815-6841
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## Drinking Water Parameters of Health Significance

A full water analysis includes the following parameters.

Those shaded blue can be related to direct health impacts where the Maximum Acceptable Concentration is exceeded. It is important to consider there may be other sources of intake besides drinking water. Some parameters can indicate impacts from outside contaminant sources, or should be sampled to fully assess water quality and determine appropriate methods of treatment.

*Fecal Coliforms or E. Coli	pH
*Total Coliforms	Hardness
True colour	Total Dissolved Solids
Conductivity (specific conductance)	Turbidity
Corrosivity	*Sulphide
*Nitrate (as N)	*Fluoride
*Nitrite (as N)	*Sulphate
*Low level metals scan (must include <u>antimony, arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, calcium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nickel, potassium, sodium, uranium, zinc</u> )	Chloride Total Organic Carbon

It is recommended that chemical analyses be completed for Total concentrations (rather than dissolved), to fully represent potential quality problems.

Additional sampling may be required where contamination is suspected, or where a drinking water source is being considered for community water system approval.

**The following accredited labs in the Vancouver area provide full analysis of drinking water health parameters: (\*You may need to verify whether samples are accepted from private individuals)**

Name of Lab	Location	Contact Info.
<b>Exova Laboratories (formerly Bodycote)</b>	104, 19575 – 55A Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 8P8	<b>Tel: 604 514-3322</b> <b>Fax: 604 514-3323</b> <a href="mailto:sales@exova.com">sales@exova.com</a>
<b>ALS Environmental Vancouver</b>	1988 Triumph Street Vancouver, BC V5L 1K5	<b>(604) 253-4188 Ext. 288</b> <a href="mailto:Vancouver@alsenviro.com">Vancouver@alsenviro.com</a>
<b>Can-Test</b>	4606 Canada Way Burnaby, BC V5G 1K5	<b>(604) 734-7276</b>
<b>Silliker/JR Laboratories</b>	#12-3871 North Fraser Way Burnaby, BC V5J 5G6	<b>(604) 432-9311</b> <a href="mailto:jpwong@silliken.com">jpwong@silliken.com</a>
<b>Maxxam Analytics Inc.</b>	8577 Commerce Court Burnaby, BC V5A 4N5	(604) 444-4808 Ext. 233 <a href="mailto:info@maxxamanalytics.com">info@maxxamanalytics.com</a>