1. **Wash your hands with soap and water** prior to taking the water sample.

How to Collect a Water Sample

1. **Remove any aerator, screen, or other attachment from your faucet.** If you cannot do this, take a sample from an inside tap with no aerator. Taps with extendable hoses are not ideal as bacteria and debris can get trapped in the hose. Do not take a sample from an outside faucet or the garden hose.
2. **Run cold water for 2-3 minutes.**
3. **Swab the end of the faucet spout with a disinfectant** such as isopropyl alcohol or diluted bleach solution (1 part unscented household bleach to 10 parts water) to remove debris or bacteria. Do not disinfect the spout with a flame because this can damage the faucet.

1. **Run the cold tap** for 2 to 3 minutes again. This allows any standing water in the pipes to be removed.
2. **Remove the lid of the sample bottle.** Do not touch the inside of the lid, put the lid down, or touch it with anything other than the water being collected. Do not rinse out the bottle.
3. **Fill the bottle to the level that is marked**. Close the lid firmly and refrigerate.
4. Follow licensed lab instructions for collection of other parameters i.e. chemicals.