

## For more information

If you have questions about sample collection procedures, call the Department of Health Office of Drinking Water:

**Eastern Region, Spokane**  
509-329-2100

**Northwest Region, Kent**  
253-395-6750

**Southwest Region, Tumwater**  
360-236-3030

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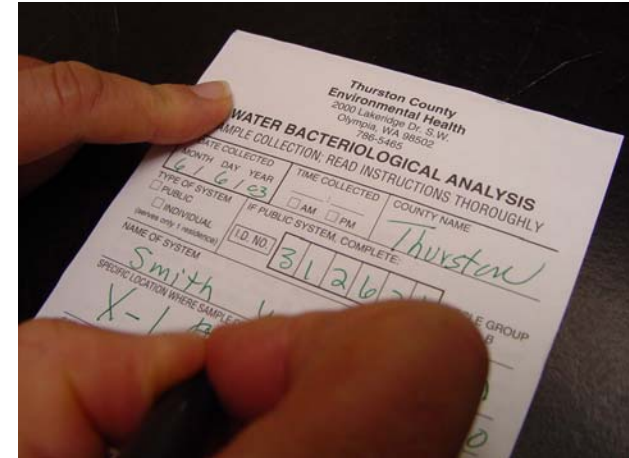
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# Nitrate Sampling Procedure

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DOH 331-222



## Nitrate Sampling Procedure

This brochure provides general information on how to collect a sample for nitrate. Steps and procedures can vary depending on the laboratory used, so you should follow the instructions provided by the laboratory you are using.



INITIAL **TJ** HERE IF YOU WANT THESE RESULTS FORWARDED TO WSDOH REGIONAL OFFICE (Required for compliance. Results will be sent to you and the state)

1) SYSTEM ID # <b>123456</b>	2) SYSTEM NAME <b>Evergreen Water</b>	3) CLASS <b>A/B</b>	4) COUNTY <b>King</b>
5) SOURCE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> Well / Ground Water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well Field <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased	6) DOH SOURCE # <b>503</b>	8) TREATMENT TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Filtration <input type="checkbox"/> Fluoridation <input type="checkbox"/> Aeration <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
DATE COLLECTED <b>5/25/03</b>	10) TIME OF COLLECTION <b>10:00</b>	11) COLLECTED BY	
7) UTILITY'S NAME <b>Wellfield-Wellside</b>			
WHERE SAMPLE WAS TAKEN Specific Location: <b>pumphouse faucet -</b>			

The general sampling procedure for nitrate monitoring is as follows:

## The day before

**Step One:** Freeze the chemical cold pack.

**Step Two:** COMPLETE the laboratory form and sample label.

Laboratory forms vary. Be sure to include the following:

- Water system name
- Water system ID number
- System type (Group A or Group B)
- DOH source number (such as SO1)
- Sample purpose (usually “RC” for routine compliance sample)
- Date and time the sample was collected
- Sample location (specific location where you collected the sample. For example, “pump house tap.”)
- Sample type (pre-treatment, raw, or post-treatment)

## Sample Collection Day

**Step One:** Locate a sampling tap that is after treatment (if applicable) but before water enters the distribution system.

**Step Two:** Remove any attachment from the tap such as hoses, filters, screens, or aerators.

**Step Three:** Flush the water for about 5 minutes or until the water reaches a constant temperature.

**Step Four:** Fill the sample container to the shoulder of the bottle.



## After completing sample collection

**Keep all samples refrigerated until you are ready to ship them.** When samples are ready for shipping, pack the samples, frozen chemical cold pack, and completed sample information form into a container and ship it to the laboratory within 24 hours.

Some county health departments and laboratories will pick up samples at a central drop-off location. Be sure to follow their schedule so that your samples reach the lab in time.

