



Thank you for participating in the drinking water testing opportunity at the Lancaster County GIS Day. Below are instructions for collecting a sample of your household water. Please read all the instructions now so that you are prepared at collection time.

We will test your water for pH, Total Dissolved Solids, and Nitrates. Please note that these results will be for educational purposes to help you make further decisions about testing your water at a PA DEP-accredited laboratory. A list of local DEP-accredited laboratories will be provided at the event.

Your sample bottle will be assigned a number when you arrive at the Penn State Extension table at GIS Day. At that time, please confirm that we have accurate contact information for you in the event you do not get your results by the time you leave. Please contact me if you have any questions about your water sample.

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How to Collect Your Drinking Water Sample

- If you have water treatment equipment, you may get different results depending on where you collect the sample (before or after treatment). Call us for advice if needed.
- Collect your water sample as close to your arrival at the GIS Day event as possible. Keep your sample cold in a refrigerator or in a small cooler with ice or an ice pack.
- Purchase a new 12 or 16 oz. container of bottled water from your local grocery or convenience store. Leave the bottle sealed until you are ready to collect your sample, and then pour out the contents so you can use the container. This bottle will serve as a sterile container for your sample. **Please do NOT bring water samples in glass jars, plastic food containers or other un-sanitary containers as this may affect the water testing results and makes sample processing more difficult.**
- Remove the aerator (if one exists) from the faucet where you are collecting your water sample by unscrewing it from the faucet.
- Run the cold water from the faucet for a few minutes and then rinse the bottled water container three times with your own water. After you have triple rinsed the container, fill the bottle to the top with cold water. Be VERY careful not to touch the bottle lip or inside of the cap with your fingers as this could contaminate the sample.