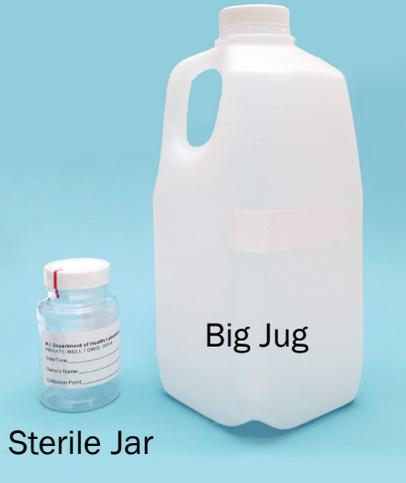


## Annual Test Kit



# Annual Test Kit Instructions for Private Well Water

## ● This kit will test for:

- Nitrate
- Nitrite
- Color
- Chloride
- Turbidity (cloudy water)
- Coliform bacteria

## ① Get ready to test your water

### Step 1: Have on hand:

- ✓ A ballpoint pen or pen with ink that will not smear if wet.
- ✓ A cooler with ice or plastic ice bricks to bring water samples to the lab. If you use regular ice, seal it tightly in a plastic bag.
- ✓ Fresh household bleach, not perfumed. If you already have a bottle, check when it expires. If the date has passed, get a new bottle.
- ✓ A small household container wide enough to hold a cup of liquid under your tap, such as a measuring cup or clean food container.
- ✓ Protective gloves, like the kind you might wear to wash dishes.

**Step 2: Choose a day to test** when you can return the jug and jar (your water samples) to the State Health Laboratories in Providence within 24 hours. The lab accepts samples:  
Monday - Thursday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

**Step 3: Take the 2 containers you will use out of the bag.** Make sure you have a Big Jug and a Sterile Jar.

**Step 4: Read all instructions** before you take water samples. Use the pictures to guide you.

**Step 5: Choose ONE water tap to sample** — one that is used often for drinking or cooking water. This is most likely a kitchen tap.

**Step 6: Fill out the labels on the jug and jar** just as shown in the example. Please PRINT so the lab can read the label. Use an ink pen that will not smear or “run” if wet.

**Step 7: Slowly turn the cold water** on to get a steady pencil-size stream of water from the faucet. Let the water run for 5 minutes before collecting the sample.

## Sample Label

Date/Time: 3/23/2016 4:35pm  
Owners Name: Jane and John Doe  
Collection Point: Kitchen Tap

## Questions?

**Contact:** Peter DiPippo, Private Well Program Manager, Rhode Island Department of Health

**Email:** peter.dipippo@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-5960. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.





Filling the Big Jug



Soaking the tap with the bleach solution



Filling the Sterile Jar

## ② Collect your 1<sup>st</sup> water sample in the Big Jug

**Step 1: Unscrew the jug cap.** Hold the jug in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap.

**Step 2: Fill the jug with cold water.** Do not let the rim or neck of the jug touch the tap. And, do not let the jug overflow.

**Step 3: Replace** the jug cap and **turn off** the water.

## ③ Collect your 2<sup>nd</sup> water sample in the Sterile Jar

**Step 1: Sterilize the tap with bleach. Here's how:**

- Put on the protective gloves.
- Mix one cap of fresh bleach with about one cup of water in the small household container that fits under your tap.
- Hold the container under the tap — so the tap soaks in the solution for 2 minutes.

**Step 2: Again, slowly turn the cold water on** to get a steady pencil-size stream of water from the faucet. Let the water run for 5 minutes before collecting the sample.

**Step 3: Remove the jar from its packaging. Unscrew the jar cap.** Hold the jar in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the inside of the jar.

**Step 4: Fill the jar with cold water up to the 100 ml marked line.** Do not let the rim or neck of the jar touch the tap. And, do not let the jar overflow.

**Step 5: Replace** the jar cap and **turn off** the water.

## ④ Finish up

- **Pour the bleach solution down the drain.** It will not hurt a septic system.
- **Recheck the labels on the jug and jar.** Make sure you have filled them out so they're clear and complete.
- **Put the jug and jar in your refrigerator** until you take them to the lab. Remember, you need to drop them off within 24 hours.
- **Fill out the Lab Order Form.** Write a check or money order made out to "The General Treasurer, State of RI" for the total amount of all the water tests you request. This Annual Test Kit costs \$95.00. If you are doing other tests in addition, find the prices on the Order Form. Add all costs and show the total at the bottom.
- **Drop off your water samples with the Order Form and payment.** Place the jug and jar in your cooler with ice to transport them to the lab. Remember to seal regular ice in a plastic bag so it won't leak water into the cooler.

## Questions?

**Contact:** Peter DiPippo, Private Well Program Manager, Rhode Island Department of Health

**Email:** peter.dipippo@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-5960. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.