

Lee County Environmental Lab
60-2 Danley Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-533-8600

PLEASE READ BEFORE SAMPLING!!!!

Make sure you write the date and time that you took the sample ON THE BOTTLE, along with your initials and the address where the sample was taken. Note, that there is a 3 week turnaround time on non-bacterial results.

All samples must be received within 24 hours of being taken. If they are received after that time, or testing cannot begin within the 24 hour hold time, they will not be accepted. As soon as you take the samples, place them in wet ice immediately to begin the chilling process. Frozen samples will NOT be accepted.

ALL samples must be received **IN WET ICE** (a combination of water & ice cubes). They must be at the proper temperature (< 6°C) and the lab must be able to begin testing within the hold time, or the results will be qualified. Normally, qualified results are not accepted by the regulatory agency.

Lead (Pb)

Taken from **INSIDE** the house, first draw of the day. Before anyone runs any water, fill the lead bottle from the faucet and **fill it up to the top**. Do not put bleach in the sample. Place in wet ice. **If the house has been empty, flush the lines prior to taking the sample, let the water sit overnight and then take the sample.**

Nitrate/Nitrite/Nitrate + Nitrite (NO₂/NO₃/NO_x)-

Usually taken from the spigot at the well, **OUTSIDE**. Fill both bottles at the same time, and fill to the top. Place in wet ice.

Bacteria (MUG test)-

The agency requesting the test needs to specify whether water is taken from inside the home or from the well. Most often, this sample is taken from **INSIDE** the home. **Fill to the fill line indicated on the bottle.** If the sample is too full, or not full enough, it will not be accepted. Do not overflow or rinse bottle. Place in wet ice.

NOTE ON BACTERIA SAMPLE:

Remove aerator from faucet, if present. Open faucet or hose bib fully for a couple of seconds. Clean the faucet or hose bib with 10% household bleach solution and an old toothbrush (spritz and scrub enough times to clean) and let the water run for 5 minutes and then proceed to fill the container. Do not rinse out the container, overflow the container or dip the container into water when sampling, or the test will be invalid. Overly full or underfilled bottles will not be accepted.

Please bring a blank check with you – you must pay for the samples when you drop them off. If you bring cash, it must be exact – we cannot make change. Checks should be made out to: Lee County BOCC

Samples accepted:

Mon – Friday: 8am – 2:00pm

At this time, we do not accept Nitrate/Nitrite/Nitrate+Nitrite on Friday. These samples must be received by noon on Thursday.