

## 3-5 Year Test Kit

### Large Bottle



### Big Jug



### Sterile Jar



# Private Well Water 3 – 5 Year Test Kit Instructions

## ● This kit will test for:

**Substances** you should test for each year, including •Nitrate, •Nitrite, •Color, •Turbidity (cloudy water), and •Coliform Bacteria

**Substances** you should test for every 3-5 years, including •Fluoride, •Iron, •Lead, •Manganese, •Sulfate, and tests for substances that can ruin appliances and plumbing, including •pH, •Alkalinity, •Total Dissolved Solids, •Hardness, and •Specific Conductance

- **The test kit includes:** 1) a Large Bottle, 2) a Big Jug, and 3) a Sterile Jar. Use the containers in this order.
- **We're here to answer your questions,** test your water in our State Health Lab, and help you understand your results.

## ① Get ready before you fill the Large Bottle, the Big Jug, and the Sterile Jar

### 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.
- ✓ Protective gloves, like the kind you might wear to wash dishes.
- ✓ A small household container wide enough to hold a cup of liquid under your tap, such as a measuring cup or clean food container.

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

**Step 3: Read all instructions** before you take water samples. Use the pictures to guide you.

**Step 4: Choose ONE water tap to sample** — one that is used often for drinking or cooking water. This is most likely a kitchen tap.

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## 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.



## Sample Label

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



Filling the Large Bottle



Filling the Big Jug

**Step 5: Fill out the labels on all 3 containers** as shown in the example. Please PRINT so the lab can read the labels. Use an ink pen that will not smear or “run” if wet.

## 2 Collect your 1<sup>st</sup> water sample in the Large Bottle

**Step 1: Unscrew the lid of the bottle**, holding the bottle in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap with your fingers and do not let the neck of the bottle touch the tap.

**Step 2: Hold the bottle under the tap and turn the cold water tap on** to collect the first water. Fill the bottle up to the shoulder. Do not let the bottle overflow.

**Step 3: Replace the bottle cap firmly.**

**Step 4: Turn off the water.**

## 3 Collect your 2<sup>nd</sup> water sample in the Big Jug

**Step 1: Slowly turn the cold water on** to get a steady pencil-size stream of water from the faucet.

- Let the water run for about 5 minutes before collecting the sample.

**Step 2: 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 3: 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 4: Replace the jug cap.**

**Step 5: Turn off the water.**

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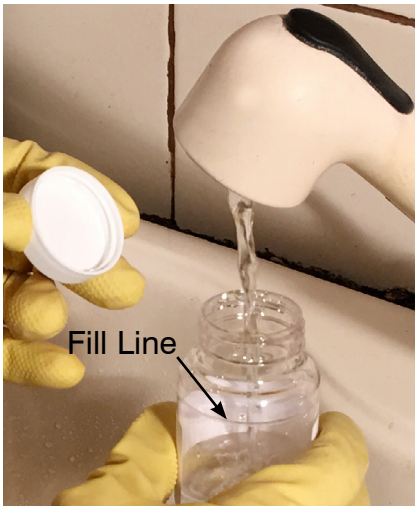
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Soaking the tap with the bleach solution



Filling the Sterile Jar

## ④ Collect your 3<sup>rd</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 one cup of water in the small household container that fits under your tap.
- Hold the container under 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 again for about 5 minutes before collecting this last water sample.

### Step 2: 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 3: 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 4: Replace the jar cap and turn off the water.

## ⑤ Finish up

- **Pour the bleach solution down the drain.** It will not hurt a septic system. Take off the protective gloves.
- **Recheck the labels on all containers.** Make sure you have filled them out so they are clear and complete.
- **Put all containers 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.** The 3-5 year Test Kit costs \$280.00 total. 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 of the 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.
- **Drop off your water samples with the Order Form and payment.** Place the containers 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.

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