



## How To Collect Your Drinking Water Sample

These instructions are for households attending one of the Safe Drinking Water Clinics scheduled for Perry County on June 25 2026 at either 1:00pm or 6:00pm. The location for this event is the Penn State Extension Office, 8 S Carlisle St, New Bloomfield, PA 17068. Your water sample will be screened for Nitrogen, Bacteria, pH and Total Dissolved Solids.

**Follow these instructions to collect your water sample**  
*Free water testing is limited to one sample per household.*

1. Get an unopened 12oz or 16oz plastic container of bottled water from a local grocery or convenience store. Leave the bottle sealed until you are ready to collect your water sample. **Please only use an unopened bottled water container. DO NOT collect your sample in a glass jar, plastic food dish, or any other unsterilized container, as this may affect the water test results.** If you already have an unopened bottle of bottled water at home, feel free to use it instead of purchasing a new bottle.
2. If the faucet where you are collecting your water sample has an aerator, remove it by carefully unscrewing it from the faucet. If you can't remove it, no worries, leave it in place.
3. Run the cold water from the faucet for a few minutes and, while the water is running, unscrew the cap from the bottled water container and empty the water it contains down the sink.
4. IMPORTANT: Whenever you handle the bottled water container, be careful not to touch the bottle lip or inside of the cap with your fingers because bacteria on your hands could contaminate the sample.
5. Rinse the inside of the bottled water container three times with your home water. After you have triple rinsed the container, fill the bottle to the top with cold water, carefully replace the cap and place the bottle in your refrigerator until just before you leave for the drinking water clinic. Store your bottle in a cooler with ice if your drive to the clinic will take longer than 10 minutes.



*1. Collect your water sample in a bottled water container. Unseal the bottle just before you empty it to refill with water from your home or farm.*

Collect your sample as close to the time of the clinic as possible. Store the bottle in a cool place until you are ready to travel to the clinic. Do whatever you can to keep the sample as cool as possible.

Test results for pH, Nitrates, and Total Dissolved Solids will be provided during the meeting. Results for bacteria will be available a day or two later.

**Questions?** Please contact:

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