

# Arsenic

## SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

### Reference Method EPA 200.8

**Read instructions carefully.  
Samples may be rejected if ALL instructions are not followed.**

- **Safety concerns:**  
**Caution!** Sample bottles contain chemicals. Open containers slowly and carefully. Do not rinse out containers.
  - View [Safety Data Sheets](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/envlab/sdsinformation.html)  
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- **Sample bottle/preservative:**
  - 250 mL HDPE Metals bottle, Unpreserved  
**OR**
  - 250 mL HDPE Metals bottle with 2.5 mL of 20% Nitric Acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>) preservative
- **Shipping:**
  - Ship as soon as possible. Unpreserved samples must arrive at the laboratory within 14 days; preserved samples must arrive at the laboratory within 6 months.
- **Sampling locations:**
  - Sample at the first sample tap following treatment (treated water).

#### Sample collection procedure:

1. Attach the pre-printed label to the bottle. If you do not have a pre-printed label, write the following information, using a ballpoint or permanent pen, on the generic bottle label: PWSID, PWS Name, and Location ID.
2. Remove any attachments from the sample tap.
3. Turn on the cold water tap and run for 4 to 5 minutes, or until the water temperature has stabilized, whichever is longer.
  - a. If there is only one faucet handle, make sure it is in the cold water position.
4. Reduce the flow of the water so the stream is steady and the width of a pencil.
5. Remove bottle cap and hold in hand. Do not touch the underside of the cap or the inside of the bottle.
6. Fill bottle to the shoulder. **DO NOT** overfill the container.
7. Depending on bottle type:

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- a. If using preserved bottle, add nitric acid, secure cap, agitate for 15 seconds.
  - b. If using unpreserved bottle secure bottle cap.
8. Replace any attachments that were removed from the faucet.

### **Complete Chain-of-Custody form using a ballpoint or permanent pen:**

1. Name of the sample collector.
2. Date and Time collected (include a.m. or p.m.).
3. Field Number (if applicable).
4. Put your signature on the “Relinquished By” line, including date and time. The date and time are when the sample is put in the return mailer and sealed. If samples pass hands prior to packaging, both parties must sign, date, and time. The first party would put down the date and time of the transfer, and the second party would put down the date and time the sample is packaged.

### **Shipping and handling:**

1. If dropping off at the laboratory a physical hand-off is required.
2. Prepare package for shipping.
  - a. Place the bottle, with pre-printed label attached, in the mailing container.
  - b. Place completed Chain-of-Custody in the provided zip-lock bag and ship with the bottle(s) in the shipping container.
3. Ship to the Public Health Laboratory:

#### **Courier Service (Spee-Dee, UPS, FedEx, etc.)**

Minnesota Department of Health  
Public Health Laboratory  
Environmental Sample Receiving  
601 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2531

#### **U.S. Postal Service – 1st Class**

Minnesota Department of Health  
Public Health Laboratory  
Environmental Sample Receiving  
P.O. Box 64899  
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0899

If you have questions, call 651-201-4700, or email [health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us).

Minnesota Department of Health  
Drinking Water Protection  
651-201-4700  
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[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700.*