



Arrowsic WaterWise Volunteer Samplers

Thank you for volunteering to collect water samples in Arrowsic as part of this study. We couldn't complete this sampling effort without your help. Two types of samples are being collected as part of this study:

- 1) a bacteria sample to check the drinking water quality in the home, and
- 2) an untreated sample of the well water to obtain important information about the water quality in the aquifer.

In most cases, this requires that the water samples be collected from different locations at the home – the bacteria sample from the kitchen tap and the minerals and metals sample from the pressure tank tap prior to treatment.

We are collaborating with Maine Coast Laboratory in Wiscasset on this project. Between the two towns, Arrowsic and Georgetown, we expect to collect over 300 samples at a cost of over \$40,000 for just the laboratory analysis. The testing is being paid for by a joint Arrowsic Georgetown Community Action Grant and is free to the homeowners that signed up.

For the sample analysis to be valid, the lab should receive the bacteria sample within 24 hours of collection. This requires that we deliver the samples daily to the lab Monday through Thursday (they don't accept bacteria samples from Friday). Samplers should deliver their water samples and put them in the fridge outside the Arrowsic Fire Station **by noon each day**. Samples will be picked up and transported to the lab by volunteers.

Instructions on where and how to collect the samples are provided below. If you have questions about how or where to sample you can contact the technical team, Carol White or Julia Maine, by text, phone or email and we will try to help. We will be in the area sampling ourselves throughout the month of July. Our contact information is:

Carol White, C.A. White & Associates cell 207-746-4769

carol@cawhitemaine.com

Julia Maine, FB Environmental

cell (207) 766-8449

juliam@fbenvironmental.com

Sampling Video

We have put together a short video demonstrating the sampling procedures. You can access it on the project's WaterWise website on the Georgetown Conservation Commission webpage: [WaterWise Sampling Instructions](#) or by using this QR code.



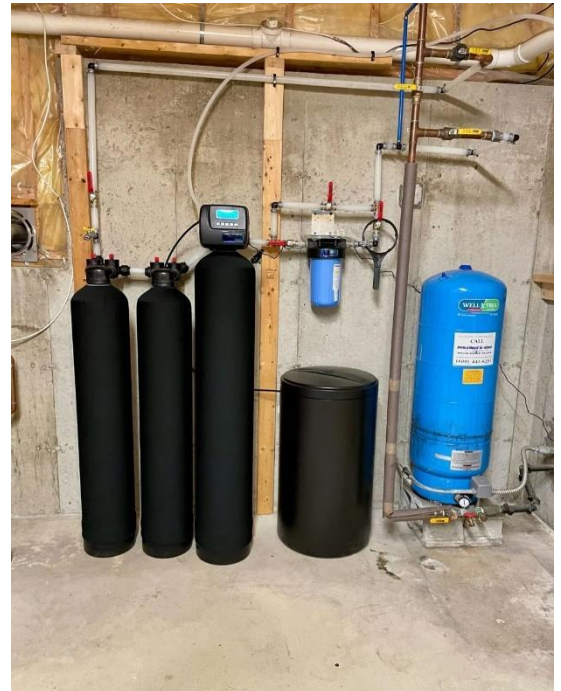
Bacteria Sampling Instructions

Take your bacteria sample first.

1. **Wash** your hands before starting. Gloves are not necessary if you handle the bottle and cap carefully, but if desired, you can wear sterile nitrile gloves that have been provided with your sampling supplies.
2. **Sample Bottle:** Use the single, sealed, sterile clear sample bottle with the **yellow label** for the bacteria sample. Make sure that the plastic seal on the cap of the bottle is intact. There will be white powder or a pellet inside the bottle. Do not dump it out.
3. **Sample Tap:** Sample the household tap that is used for cooking and drinking water. This will almost always be the kitchen tap. Remove the aerator (if present) from the faucet by unscrewing by hand - gloves may help you get a grip. Do not use tools unless it is your own faucet. If you can't remove the aerator, it's OK to sample the faucet anyway. For this study it is OK to sample gooseneck and pull-down faucets after sterilizing and running the water.
4. **Before Sampling Sterilize the Sample Tap:** Your sampling supplies include a spray bottle and small containers and a bottle of isopropyl alcohol. Sterilize the end of the faucet by either:
 - a. **Spray** the inside and outer end of the faucet with isopropyl alcohol and wait about 30 seconds. This is a good method for gooseneck or pull-down faucets that do not have removable aerators.
 - b. **Immersing** the end of the faucet in small container of isopropyl alcohol. Keep it immersed for about **30 seconds**.
5. **Run the Water** Turn on the **COLD** water tap and allow it to **run the water 5 to 10 minutes**.
 - a. *Note:* If the house has been unoccupied for days, the water in the well should be flushed for at least 30 minutes before sampling. This can be done by running the dishwasher, washing machine and/or watering the garden, or by running the faucet.
6. **Collect Your Water Sample** Reduce the water flow to a pencil size stream. Remove the seal from the bottle cap and open the sample bottle. **DO NOT RINSE** the bottle. Take care not to touch the inside of the bottle or cap. Place the bottle under the faucet and **fill the bottle to the neck of the bottle** - leave some headspace for mixing. If there is not sufficient sample volume, your sample may be rejected. Do not overfill the bottle.
7. If possible, keep your sample cool while in transit or the fridge if stored overnight.

Minerals and Metals Sampling Instructions

For this study it is important that the inorganic sample be collected **prior to any water treatment** so that we can assess the current water quality in the aquifer. If the home has a water treatment system such as a cartridge filter, an iron treatment or water softener, carbon, reverse osmosis or other type of the water treatment, the sample should be collected **before** this treatment. Based on the survey results, more than half the respondents in Arrowsic have water treatment. The Chain of Custody for the property indicates if the homeowner reported that they have installed water treatment. If the form says “unknown”, it’s best to assume that it has treatment.

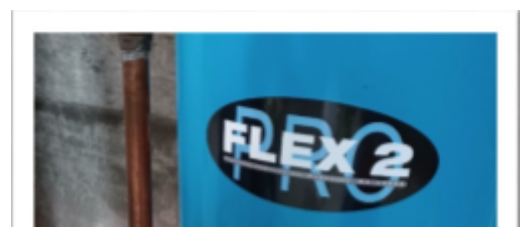


Sample Bottle: Use the two plastic sample bottles with the **blue label** for your inorganic minerals and metals sample.

Sample Tap: The preferred location to sample is the **pressure tank tap**. The pressure tank is usually a blue or gray tank located in the basement or utility room of the home. The tap is typically at the bottom of the tank. The pressure tank receives and stores water directly from the well before it enters the treatment and piping system.



Purge the sample tap:



From the pressure tank: Turn on the spigot located on the front of your tank near the bottom of the tank. Use a plastic bag, bucket, or foil pan or combination to collect the purge water. If you have already run the water for 5 to 10 minutes before collecting the bacteria sample, you only need to purge a few cups of water from the pressure tank tap. If you can't fit the sample bottle under the tap you can collect the sample in a clean WhirlPack sample bag and then transfer the water into the 2 sample bottles.



What if you can't sample the pressure tank?



If you cannot access the pressure tank, or have difficulty sampling the tap, you can sample the outside spigot. If possible, first try to confirm that the outside spigot does not pass through the water treatment system by asking the homeowner or looking at the plumbing. Do not move any valves or levers to bypass the treatment system.

From an outside spigot: Take off any hose fittings so you can collect the sample directly from the outside spigot. When sampling the outside spigot, run **the water for an additional 5-10 minutes**, to purge piping and tap before collecting your sample.

Fill the 2 opaque bottles with the blue labels to the neck of the bottle and cap securely.

Sample Paperwork

Fill out the Chain of Custody Form (COC). Once you have collected both the bacteria and inorganic samples, please fill out the **Sampled By** and write **the date and time** you collected the sample on the Chain of Custody form provided with the sample kit. Check to make sure that the sample ID on the bottle matches the sample ID on the Chain of Custody.

If you collected the inorganic sample from someplace other than the pressure tank tap, please indicate where the sample was collected in the **Sampler Notes** on the COC form. In addition, please indicate any other items of interest such as sample odor or color or pertinent information the homeowner may have provided during your sampling visit.

At the bottom of the form fill out the **Relinquished** section with the date, then sign the form and put it back in the small plastic bag. Put your signed Chain of Custody back in the larger labeled bag along with bacteria bottle and the 2 inorganic sample bottles (3 bottles total).

Sample Storage and Drop Off

Sample Storage: If possible, keep your samples cool while in transit by putting them in a cooler or insulated bag. If you need a cooler let us know and we can supply one. If you need to store your samples overnight, and you can't get to the Fire Station, you can put them in your refrigerator overnight.

Sample Drop Off: Bacteria samples must be received by the lab within **24 hours of sample collection**. All the samples you have collected from the morning or from the afternoon or evening of the previous day must be **delivered to the Fire Department before noon** for transport to the laboratory. Place your sample bags in one of the fridges located outside at the Arrowsic Fire Station. If for some reason you miss the sample pick up, please contact Carol or Jody immediately so can try to make arrangements to get your samples to the lab on time.

Sample Delivery to the Laboratory: Samples will be delivered to the lab Monday through Thursday for the month of July. Georgetown samplers will be ferrying their samples to the Arrowsic Fire Station, and all the samples will be consolidated and delivered to the lab as a group. Volunteers have signed up to pick up the samples at Arrowsic Fire Station and transport them to the lab for delivery in the early afternoon.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY RECORD										GEORGETOWN Groundwater Study 2026										FORM 01									
Client: GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPT.										Project Name: Georgetown 2026 Gd Study										FILTERED									
Address: 777 Five Islands Road										Project Location: Georgetown										PRESERVATION CODE									
Town: Georgetown										Project Number: 612026										ANALYSTS REQUIRED									
Phone: (202) 373-2772										Project Manager: Carol White (202) 743-6986																			
Email: cwhite@firedpt.com																													
Sampled by:																													
Other Project Specific Requirements/Comments:										Residence Type: Year-round																			
Parcel: 08U-008										Treatment: None																			
GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPT.										Hemal: No																			
SAMPLE ID										Date										Time									
Collection										COMPOSITE OR USE										ANALYSTS REQUIRED									
GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPT. (08U-008)										GRAB										Water									
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Sampler Notes:										Note for Lab: Please test specific conductance (SC) at the Lab																			
Relinquished										Date										Time									
Received By:										Date										Time									