

**Tennessee Technological University  
Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources  
Environmental Quality Laboratory**

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<https://www.tntech.edu/research/centersandfacilities/wrc/lab/index.php>

***INSTRUCTIONS FOR BACTERIAL SAMPLING***

**IMPORTANT:** Samples for bacterial analysis must be analyzed within six hours of collection. Bacterial samples are accepted Monday through Thursday, 8:30 -12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00, in Prescott Hall, Room 426. **No samples will be accepted on Fridays.** Contact Philip Burr with any questions at (931) 372-3538.

Bacterial samples must be collected in a sterile container. Several options are available: (1) Obtain and E.P. A. bacterial sampling container from the lab, (2) Purchase a bottle of drinking water pour the contents out and use that container, or (3) Sterilize a pint glass container plus top. Special care must be taken when collecting a sample for microbial analysis. This analysis is very sensitive to contamination and interference, such as airborne molds and bacteria. The container must be sterile and should not be opened until the sample is to be taken. If sampling a chlorinated water system (city or utility district water) option 1 should be used.

When the sample is taken from a sink, the aerator screen on the faucet should be removed prior to sampling. Turn the faucet on and let it run for about thirty seconds. Open the container and, while keeping your hands as much out of the way as possible, hold the container under the water stream and fill it to the “upper” *small line* that is labeled “E.P.A. 100 ML FILL LINE,” approximately 1” from top for option 1. For other options fill the container approximately 2/3 full. For option 1 close the lid on the container and lock the lid in place using the attached 3 inch long zip tie. For other options cap with sterilized cap. The collection container **MUST BE** transported to the lab **on ice** as soon as possible after collection. **This sample cannot be sent through the mail or other express delivery.**

*Directions to the Water Center Laboratory:* From Interstate 40, take Exit 286 and go north on Willow Avenue. At the university entrance (approximately 3 miles from the I-40 exit), turn right onto University Drive. At the first stop sign, turn right on Stadium Drive. Prescott Hall will be on your left. Parking will be to your right or on the left at the next stop sign. Please park in a designated parking space. The Water Center lab sample receiving area is in Room 426. If you have GPS, physical address is 1020 Stadium Dr. Cookeville, TN.