



F a c t s

TESTING YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Grey Bruce Health Unit offers to the public the free service of having drinking water tested for bacteria. The health unit serves as a drop-off point for water samples. The samples are transported daily to the Public Health Laboratory in LONDON for testing.

Remember

Remove screen or other attachment from tap. Run cold water for 2 to 3 minutes before collecting sample in a Public Health Laboratory bottle. Do not touch the inside of the bottle or lid. Fill the sample bottle to the indicator line without rinsing the bottle. The granular material in the bottle is a Sodium Thiosulphate and is intended to be there. This material may cause a reaction if ingested or inhaled; therefore bottles should not be handled by young children.

Carefully read and fill out the reply form. Necessary information includes sample locations, date sample taken; return address, and Health Unit # (found on the second page attached to the form). Attach the name label found on the bag of the bottle. Place the completed form in the bag provided, and wrap the bag around the bottle with the elastic band.

Submit water sample as soon as possible. *Keep refrigerated. Do not freeze.*

Results are available by telephone from the lab provided you state the PIN number on the bottle (so be sure to record it before sending your sample). Wait 72 hours after dropping the sample off at the Public Health unit then call 1-877-723-3426 for your results. Have your PIN number ready and an automated attendant will assist you.

Water samples that take more than 48 hours to reach the laboratory are too old for reliable analysis and **will not be tested**. Return water bottles to one of the following locations on the day of sampling:

— *Health & Environment Facts* —

Public Health Unit Offices:	Other Drop-off Locations:
Owen Sound office before 11:20 a.m.	Durham Hospital Lab Mon to Fri, before 1:00 p.m.
Walkerton office before 2:00 p.m.	Hanover Hospital Mon to Thur, before 1:30 p.m.
	Kincardine Hospital before 9:15 am
	Markdale Hospital before 12:30 p.m.
	Meaford Hospital Lab Mon to Thur, before 10:30 a.m.
	Sauble Beach Medical Clinic Tuesday, before 10:30 am
	Walkerton Hospital Mon to Fri, before 2:00 pm
	Warton Hospital Lab before 10:30 a.m.
	Southampton Hospital before 10:00 am

If samples must be taken a day before keep them under refrigeration before delivery to the Public Health Unit the next day.

Results will be mailed to the return address on the reply form by the London lab. Allow about five days for return of results.

Is your water supply safe?

Grey Bruce Health Unit

- A minimum of 3 samples taken 1 to 3 weeks apart is required. The stability of a supply cannot be predicted from a single sample
- The supply must be protected from surface water contamination (.e.g. watertight construction of the well)
- The Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health, does not accept samples from untreated surface sources such as lakes, streams, and ponds since these sources are subject to intermittent pollution
- The water supply must be located a safe distance from sources of human and animal waste such as sewage systems and manure piles

— *Health & Environment Facts* —

- If the test results of the three samples indicate a bacteriological safe supply, the supply need only be tested once or twice a year thereafter. Additional samples should be submitted if there has been some change in source conditions (e.g. flooding, repairs to the well etc.) or any change in the taste, smell or appearance

Further inquiries regarding chemical testing, water report interpretation and other water-related concerns can be directed to your local Public Health Inspector at the Grey Bruce Health Unit at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456.