



BOARD OF HEALTH

13 Ayer Road

Harvard, MA 01451

Phone: 978) 456-4100, ext. 328

Email: boh@harvard-ma.gov

Website: www.harvard-ma.gov

BEST PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY SAMPLING OF PRIVATE WELLS

Requirements:

- Samples shall be collected in a way that they truly represent the water quality of the well.
- All Samples shall be collected by trained individuals who have been reviewed and approved by the Harvard Board of Health (BOH) and/or Health Agent and whose credentials and sampling procedures are consistent with industry best practices.
- All samples shall be analyzed by a Mass DEP Certified Laboratory that is certified for the target analytical compounds and prescribed analytical methods. A searchable database of Mass DEP certified Laboratories is available at:
<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DEP/Labcert/Labcert.aspx>
- The individual collecting the samples shall work closely with the selected laboratory to ensure the sample volumes, containers and preservatives (if required) meet the requirements of the analytical methods being used.
- The sample collector shall submit the laboratory report of the results to the BOH within two weeks of the collector's receipt of the report from the laboratory.
- All samples shall be delivered to the laboratory under appropriate Chain of Custody documentation to ensure sample integrity.
- Sample collection shall be scheduled to ensure that the laboratory will meet all sample holding times.
- In the case of samples being collected in association with a real estate transaction, analytical results must be submitted to the BOH no less than 30 days and no more than 1 year prior the closing.
- Samples collected post-installation of water treatment equipment for the purpose of proving efficacy shall be sampled by an individual unrelated to the installer.
- Samples being collected for PFAS analysis must be collected by an individual with specific PFAS sample collection training.
- The individual collecting the samples shall be familiar with the BOH's Private Wells regulation and Policies relating thereto.

Helpful Links:

EPA General Sampling Procedures for Private Drinking Water Samples

www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/drinking_water_sample_collection.pdf

Approved: 9/28/21