



## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION OF DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR INORGANIC & MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION**

1. Choose a sampling site or sites where drinking water is obtained, usually the kitchen sink. If the sample is collected from an outside source such as a spigot, disconnect any hose attached to that spigot. Water collected from a rubber hose may not give accurate results.
2. If there is an aerator or other device on the faucet outlet, remove this before taking the sample.
3. Clean the end of the faucet with alcohol or dilute bleach solution (1 bleach-bottle capful of bleach in 1 gallon of water).
4. Allow the cold water to run for two minutes or for sufficient time to clear the water line.
5. Reduce the flow and fill both bottles. **Make sure to fill the bacteriological sample bottle (the smaller bottle) the fill line (100mL) without rinsing or overfilling.** The white substance in the container is a preservative.
6. Microbiological samples **must be** collected in sterile containers. If you choose to not use the containers supplied by Nevada Analytical Services (NAS), you must use **clean, sterile** containers of **appropriate size**. NAS is not responsible for erroneous data resulting from samples collected in contaminated or incorrect containers.
7. Complete the chain of custody form, indicating the following:
  - a. **Client information**
  - b. **Sample Information including**
    - i. Location (sample address/site) sample was taken
    - ii. Where the sample was taken from; and
    - iii. Who took the sample
  - c. **Date**
  - d. **Time**
  - e. **Sample identification; and**
  - f. **Relinquished by information**
8. Keep the sample cool and return to the laboratory as soon as possible.
9. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 775.284.3970.**