

PURPOSE: This document provides criteria on selecting appropriate sampling taps for bacteriological sample collection. Samples sites must be selected so that you obtain a representative sample for your entire system. DHH recommends dedicated sample stations for the collection of bacteriological samples. Sample taps should be selected to reduce the possibility of bacterial contamination from outside sources.

I. Guidelines on selecting sample taps:

A. The following taps are **suitable** for bacteriological sample collection

1. Smooth nozzle type (*i.e.* not threaded)
2. Located to eliminate splashing
3. Located 10-12 inches above any surface
4. Located nearest to the water main

B. The following taps are **not suitable** for bacteriological sample collection

1. Inside threaded, swivel, upward oriented (drinking fountain), or mixing type faucets
2. Faucets showing leakage around the packing material
3. Has a point of use device attached such as a vacuum breaker, aerator, *etc.*, unless it is removed prior to sample collection
4. Has an upstream point of use treatment device (*i.e.* water softener)
5. Located in a subsurface chamber or below ground level
6. Fire Hydrants, flush valves, or any valve greater than one (1) inch in diameter
7. Located in areas not frequented by consumers (*i.e.* janitorial or commercial sinks)

II. Reference:

A Small Systems Guide to the Total Coliform Rule

http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/disinfection/tcr/pdfs/guide_tcr_smallssystemsguide.pdf