

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
About
WEEKLY BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLING

1. How often do I have to sample my pool water?

IN state code requires that you submit one (1) sample per week whenever your pool is open. A separate sample is required for each individual pool or spa.

2. What do I collect my water sample in?

You must use a special sterile bottle supplied by a laboratory. The labs usually supply a small white plastic bottle. If you use any other container (like a butter tub, or anything not from the lab), your sample will automatically fail.

3. What is the cost of the sample bottles and testing?

You must arrange to have your water sample analyzed at an environmental laboratory that is certified by the IN State Department of Health. If you need a list, please call the Johnson County Health Department at 317-436-4365.

4. How do I get water bottles for sampling?

Contact the water laboratory that will analyze your samples. Usually they are supplied free of charge. The Johnson County Health Department does not supply the bottles.

5. What is that white powder in the collection bottle?

The powder is a special chemical called “Sodium Thiosulfate”. It is in the bottle to counteract the chlorine in your pool’s water. If not neutralized, the chlorine will kill all the bacteria that were present when the sample was taken. **Do not remove the powder in the bottle.** (The lab will know and fail your sample.)

6. How do I collect a water sample?

When your water lab sends you a package of bottles, included are papers, which must be sent in with each sample. Instructions for taking a sample are included in these papers. **Read the instructions carefully.**

7. When is the best day to collect a water sample?

Usually at the beginning of the week – Monday or Tuesday. Johnson County provides free pick up on Mondays for those participating in our group collection program. If you are going to mail or drive your sample to a lab, get it there as soon as possible: in 24 hours or less.

8. How long are the bottles good for?

The bottles are good as long as they are still sealed and intact. You can safely use last year’s bottles. Some labs will allow use of another lab’s intact bottles – check first.

9. I NEED HELP!

Call the Johnson County Health Department at 346-4365. Ask for Chris Menze, Bob Smith or Betsy Swearingin.