

NITRATE/NITRITE WATER TESTING

Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin-Mendocino County Public Health Laboratory
2201 Courage Drive, MS 9-200, Fairfield, CA 94533
PHONE (707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979

ELAP NO. 2396

SAMPLE COLLECTION: Water samples taken for nitrate testing must be collected and handled properly in order to insure reliability of laboratory results. The following procedures will help you in this regard:

1. Select a tap as close to the well as possible. When you have found a suitable faucet, open it and allow the water to flow for 1-2 minutes before collecting a sample.
2. Carefully fill the plastic container provided by the laboratory.
3. Fill out the sample label on the bottle with the sample location, date and time of collection.
4. Complete the laboratory form including the sample location, sample site, date and time of collection, collector's name, chlorine level (if applicable) mailing address, contact phone number, water test requested (i.e. "Nitrates"), and any county and/or state departments that you would like a copy of the results sent.

CARE OF SAMPLE: Nitrate/Nitrite samples **must be tested within 48 hours of collection and kept refrigerated**. To assure that this time limit is met, **it is preferable to submit the sample directly to the laboratory on Tuesdays only** (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) at the following health department offices (water submission times vary between locations, please see listing below:

Yolo County Environmental Health
 292 W Beamer St.
 Woodland, CA
 530-666-8646
 (Tuesday 8:00am to 3:00pm)

Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin-Mendocino P.H. Laboratory
 2201 Courage Dr.
 Fairfield, CA
 707-784-4410
 (Tuesday 8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-3:00pm)

FEE FOR NITRATE/NITRITE TESTING: Call for current pricing – please no cash!

- Special ion testing will likely be subcontracted out to Monterey Public Health Laboratory and will include the cost of test plus shipping and handling.

NITRATE/NITRITE RESULTS: The Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Health have the following mandates on maximum contaminant levels (MCL):

- MCL of Nitrate as Nitrogen in drinking water- 10 mg/L
- MCL of Nitrate (NO₃) in drinking water- 45 mg/L
- MCL of Nitrite as Nitrogen in drinking water- 1.0 mg/L

Further information on drinking water requirements and treatment can be obtained from the following:

Yolo County Environmental Health
 530-666-8646

Napa County Health and Human Services – Public Health
 707-253-4270

Solano County Environmental Health
 707-784-6765

Marin County Environmental Health
 415-473-6269