

How to collect your water for testing



Mackay Regional Council's Laboratory offers packages for testing drinking water from rainwater tanks and bores and tests water quality of swimming pools. Results are compared to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and the Water Quality Guidelines for Pools.

Contact details

Phone number: (07) 4961 9042

Address: 89 Connors Road, Paget

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm (excluding public holidays)

Step one: Pick up sample bottles from council's laboratory

- Sample bottles provided by the laboratory **must** be used to ensure the accuracy of the test results. Drink bottles or similar are not acceptable.
- Sample bottles provided by the laboratory for microbiological testing are sterile.

Do not use the bottle if the seal is broken or has obvious signs of damage.

Microbiological Testing Bottle

250mL sterile plastic jar



Chemistry Testing Bottle

500mL or 1 L plastic bottle



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Step two: Collect your water sample

- Collect your water sample from a cold water tap where drinking water is normally obtained, such as a kitchen tap.

Do not collect your water sample from a hot water tap, bathroom tap, hydrant or hose

Do not dip the sample bottle into a water source such as a holding tank

- Remove any attachments from the faucet such as an aerator or strainer.

For a Microbiological Water Sample:

Disinfect tap end with a disinfectant wipe or immerse in a bleach solution (one part bleach to 10 parts water).

- Turn water on full flow and let the water run for at least **two minutes**. If sample is being collected from a deep well (100m or deeper), let water run for at least five minutes.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- Remove cap and place on a clean surface nearby, thread facing up. Take care not to touch the inside of the bottle or cap.
- Reduce flow of water to allow bottle to fill without splashing.



Microbiological sample | Chemistry sample

For a Microbiological Sample:

Do not rinse the bottle or overfill the bottle. Fill to the 250mL fill line.

For a Chemistry Sample:

Sample bottles may be rinsed if required or excess water may be poured out. Completely fill bottle.

- Replace cap tightly and label bottle with sample ID.

All sample bottles **must** be labelled and accompanied with a request for testing form detailing:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email to send the test result report and invoice
- Sample Id - e.g. bore, tank, swimming pool
- Date and time of water sample collection.

Once your water sample is collected:

It is important your water sample is cooled immediately and kept cool in transit to the laboratory, this can be done using an esky with ice packs. Do not freeze your water sample or add ice to it.

Step three: Deliver your water sample

Deliver your water sample to the laboratory as soon as possible and within six hours of being collected.

Deliver to:

89 Connors Road, Paget
Monday to Friday 8am to 2:30pm
(excluding public holidays).

Step four: Test results

Test results will be sent to the email address provided.

For more
information
contact council's
laboratory on
07 4961 9042.