



Bottled Water Sampling Requirements

Maintaining water quality is of critical importance in the operation and distribution of bottled water.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) requires that the operator of establishments that bottle water conduct routine sampling in accordance with 18 AAC 31.740. The information presented below provides basic information only and should not be used as a complete resource on bottled water requirements. The complete regulation is online at <http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/regulations>

How often do I need to sample?

Weekly- you must collect samples of each type of finished bottled water for fecal coliforms or E. coli testing.

Quarterly- you must randomly collect samples for aerobic plate count analysis of at least four containers and four closures. The containers and closures are sampled by either using a swab of the container and cap, or a rinse of the container before filling or sealing the bottle.

How do I submit a water sample?

Check with the laboratory that you will be working with for direction regarding the type of sample containers to use and how much water will need to be collected. For more information please see the [Guidance for Quarterly Bottled Water Container and Closure Requirements](#).

What are the levels at which my samples would not meet the requirements?

Weekly samples must be free of coliforms.

Quarterly samples must be free of coliforms, and no more than one of the four samples may exceed:

- one bacteria per milliliter of capacity (*preferred and easiest method*); or
- one colony per square centimeter of surface area.

What should I do if I get an unacceptable result?

If the results of weekly sampling are positive for coliforms you must:

- immediately notify the department
- submit additional samples from the same lot as the initial positive sample (or the next available lot if initial lot if not possible) for analysis within 24 hours or next business day of receiving notice that the initial sample was positive;
- detain the product pending the results of the additional samples;
- notify the department of results of the additional samples; and

- keep a record of any actions taken.

If the results for quarterly bottle and closure samples exceed limits you must:

- review your transportation, storage, and bottling procedures to find the source of the contamination;
- immediately correct any deficiencies found; and
- keep a record of your review.

What labs are certified to test bottled water?

A laboratory to meet the bottled water testing must be certified in both a coliform method and a heterotrophic bacteria method. You can find a list of certified laboratories at:

<http://www.dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/index.htm>

How long do I need to keep water testing records and where do I need to keep these records?

Results of all sampling must be maintained for two years. You may keep the records on-site at your facility or another location but the records must be available within 24 hours after a request is made by the department.