

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

Collection of Total Coliform Samples from Outside Sill Cocks, Spigots, or Garden Hydrants

- This method will require additional disinfection to be performed to eliminate the potential for contamination from the faucet itself.
- Recommended disinfectants
 - Ethyl alcohol greater than 60% or Isopropyl alcohol greater than 70% by volume
 - May be used to disinfect the spigot with a contact time of one minute before flushing.
 - Supplies of alcohol disinfectant may be limited due to stockpiling during a pandemic.
 - Sodium hypochlorite
 - 5.25-6.15% sodium hypochlorite or greater
 - May be used to disinfect a sampling spigot with a contact time of approximately 5 minutes before flushing.
 - If 12% sodium hypochlorite is used, equal parts of distilled or fresh tap water should be used to dilute it and contact time should be observed before flushing.
 - Eye and skin protection should be worn due to vapor causing eye, sinus, and throat irritation/burns.
 - A fresh mixture should be used daily to avoid degradation of disinfectant.
 - Pre-packaged disinfectant wipes should not be used to disinfect threaded fittings due to inability to ensure contact in hard to reach locations or inside surfaces of the faucet.
 - Wipes may be used to clean dirt and debris prior to the disinfection.
 - The use of heat/flame sterilization is not recommended due to potential for damage and harm.
- Recommended Disinfection Procedure for Outside Faucets
 - Remove any attachments from the faucet (i.e. hoses, aerators, splitters, etc.)
 - Clean the faucet and handle of all visible contaminants
 - Use a Nalgene-type (squeeze bottle that can be used upside down) with one of the recommended disinfectants to disinfect the faucet.
 - Squirt inside and outside the faucet/spigot to ensure complete surface coverage
 - Make sure to wait for the required contact time before flushing
 - More time may be necessary if service line length and size warrant additional flushing to obtain a representative sample.
 - Be careful not to allow water or mud to splash back onto the faucet.
 - This is a potential source for bacterial contamination.
 - After flushing, without turning the water off, slow the faucet to a small stream, then collect sample.
 - If Sodium Hypochlorite was used as a disinfectant, following sampling, rinse all metal components with water to prevent corrosion.



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308, MS#12DWS
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

