

Carteret County Health Department Bacteriological Water Laboratory
252-728-8499

The Carteret County Health Department has an in-house lab capable of testing for bacterial contamination in private potable water supplies. Our Bacteriological Water Quality Laboratory allows the homeowner to draw the water sample themselves and submit it the lab for testing. Samples must be taken in a sterile water bottle provided by the lab.

The cost for the service is \$30, which must be paid when you pick up your sample bottle. Sample bottles can be picked up in the Environmental Health Division between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. After collecting your sample, return the bottle by 3:00pm, Monday through Thursday (sorry no samples are accepted on Friday).

Water samples are tested for the presence of total and fecal coliform bacteria, which are indicators of contamination. A water supply should have no bacteria present. Results are usually ready within 36 hours.

Other water testing available through the Health Department includes a full chemical or nutrient sample analysis, a nitrite / nitrate analysis. Pesticide and petroleum analysis are available as well. The chemical analysis includes testing for pH, Arsenic, Lead, Iron, Calcium, Hardness, Chloride, and Fluoride. These samples are \$40.00 per test and the sample must be drawn by an Environmental Health Specialist. The results are usually available approximately two weeks after the sample has been taken. These samples are sent to the State Laboratory for public health in Raleigh for analysis.