

## DOMESTIC WATER SUITABILITY SAMPLING

When taking a water sample to be tested for domestic suitability, cleanliness is of extreme importance. **If the sample or the parts of the container which contact the sample are contaminated with bacteria from human hands or other sources, the coliform bacteria test may be positive, even though the water source itself is not contaminated.** While not absolutely necessary, it will reduce the likelihood of getting a positive (contaminated) result if you remove the faucet aerator, apply a propane flame to the end of the faucet, and allow the water to run for fifteen minutes before sampling.

Ideally, a sterilized container should be used. However, if this is not possible, it is usually satisfactory to use a clean container after rinsing it several times with the water being sampled. After the sample has been taken, it should be sent to the laboratory as soon as possible and should be refrigerated if there is a delay between sampling and shipping. **If the coliform test is not started within 48 hours of the time of sampling, the results cannot be considered valid.**

These procedures are normally sufficient for obtaining accurate and representative analytical results. Some items, not normally included in the standard domestic suitability testing package, require special handling or treatment procedures. In such cases, the laboratory can provide the necessary information on request.