**Sampling Procedure**

One clean, sterile plastic bottle is suitable for one water sample, those drinking water bottles purchased from shops, example; Mt Franklins, other bottles of about 300 mLs is ample volume for both, bacteria and chemistry analysis, from that one bottle. Alternatively, a glass jar of similar volume can be used if clean and sterilised with near boiling (>70 degrees C) water, including the inside lid.

*It is wise to time your sampling to allow returning of bottles to your pick-up or drop-off location within 1 hour, otherwise maintain a temperature of 2-8°C during transportation up to 24 hours maximum holding period.  In order to take a good representative sample for analysis, flush tap/outlet for 1 to 2 minutes depending on your plumbing reticulation, probably longer if Bore water.*

*Rain tank water may be sampled from the kitchen tap, when considering elements including copper, is most applicable rather than directly from the tank.*

**Sampling**:

*If using a newly purchased drinking water bottle, empty and rinse out with your water to be sampled, before filling the bottle. Similarly with a sterilised glass jar.*

*Hold the bottle in one hand. Remove the screw cap with the other and keep in your hand with the open side down (don't place the inside of the lid facing down on the ground). Fill the bottle almost to the top, leaving a sufficient gap to allow for mixing by the laboratory. Carefully screw the cap back on firmly but not overtight.*

**Transportation:**

Place bottle in a cool spot for up to a maximum of 1 hour whilst delivering to the lab at 549 Lake MacDonald Drive, otherwise maintain a temperature of 2-8°C up to 24 hours maximum holding period.  If you decide to post the sample, use post express (1-3 kg prepaid sachet should be suitable). Best to place bottle in a self-sealed plastic bag with some padding is ideal.  A small ice brick is advisable, especially in summer, due to any delayed delivery. The sooner the sample is returned to the laboratory, the better the integrity of the sample and results.