**Sampling Procedure**

You should have two bottles, a small sterile for Bacteria, and a large for Chemistry.

Write your details on at least one bottle and repeat, at least your name, on the other since we are collecting the same water in both bottles.  Consider what you want tested, you may have water filters installed, if so, indicate if your sample is post-filter, or directly from the rainwater tank.  Also, the kitchen sink is where most people drink from, this is most preferred for analysis since some metals including copper and aluminium may be detected from the internal reticulation.

*It is wise to time your sampling to allow returning of bottles to your pick-up or drop-off location straight away, otherwise maintain a temperature of 2-10°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, perhaps longer if Bore water.*

**Small microbiology bottle**:

*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 replace the cap.*

**Larger chemistry bottle**:

*Remove the lid of the larger Chemistry bottle and fill nearly to the top, similar to the Bacterial bottle, however less emphasis on sterile conditions.*

**Transportation:**

Place both full bottles back in the bag and keep in a cool spot whilst returning samples back to your pick-up/drop-off location *within the hour*. Samples should ideally be processed with 6 hours, but can be stored cool <10 deg. C. up to max 24hrs (AS/NZS 2031:2001).  The sooner the sample is returned to the laboratory, the better integrity of the sample and accuracy of results.