



Montana Environmental Laboratory LLC

1170 N. Meridian Rd., P.O. Box 8900, Kalispell, MT 59904
Phone: 406-755-2131 Fax: 406-257-5359 www.melab.us

FHA / VA / HUD Loan Package

Consisting of:

**Total Coliform Bacteria, E. coli Bacteria,
Nitrate, Nitrite, Total Nitrate + Nitrite & Lead**

Results in 2 weeks \$100.

Five full working day RUSH is \$150.

Two full working day SUPER RUSH is \$200.

From the HUD single family housing reference guide at:

<http://portalapps.hud.gov/FHAFAQ/controllerServlet?method=showPopup&faqId=1-6KT-45>

“If the well water must be tested, it must meet the latest local and State drinking water regulation for private wells. This includes all microbiological and chemical test parameters in any regulation. If there are no local or adequate State requirements and standards for private wells, then water quality must be tested for lead and acute contaminants, including nitrates/nitrites and microbial contaminants such as total and fecal coliform and, if of local concern, other contaminants.

The water sample(s) necessary for microbiological and chemical testing must be tested in accordance with the State drinking water regulations and EPA's analytical methods by a State-certified private laboratory. In some States, County Health Authorities are required to collect the test samples; however, if they are unable or are not required to collect the samples, an individual/company acceptable to the State and the laboratory may collect the samples.”



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An explanation of the "FHA Loan Package" parameters

Coliform Bacteria - (Maximum Contaminant Level = None Allowed)

Coliform bacteria can be an indication of surface water contamination. Coliform bacteria are present in the feces of all warm blooded mammals, as well as birds and some plants. Coliform is used by the EPA as an indicator of the sanitary quality of a water supply. An "Absent" result means that no coliform or E. Coli bacteria was detected (satisfactory).

E. Coli Bacteria - (Maximum Contaminant Level = None Allowed)

Escherichia Coliform (E. coli) is a sub type of coliform bacteria. E. Coli is associated with the presence of warm blooded animal feces, and is an indication of fecal contamination.

Nitrate - (Maximum Contaminant Level = 10 mg/L)

An elevated level of nitrate is of concern to families with infants and to the elderly. High nitrate levels can cause a condition called methemoglobineamia ("blue baby syndrome"). This is caused by the nitrate reacting in the intestinal tract to form nitrite. Nitrite will attach to the hemoglobin molecule in the blood, causing a lack of oxygen supply to vital organs. Nitrate contaminates Montana waters more often than any other chemical substance. Nitrate in well water may indicate contamination from agricultural runoff or a septic system contamination.

Nitrite - (Maximum Contaminant Level = 1 mg/L)

An elevated level of nitrite is of concern to families with infants and to the elderly. High nitrite levels can cause a condition called methemoglobineamia ("blue baby syndrome"). This is caused by nitrite attaching to the hemoglobin molecule in the blood, causing a lack of oxygen supply to vital organs.

Lead - (Maximum Contaminant Level = 0.015 mg/L or 15 ug/L)

The common source of lead in drinking water is corrosion of lead or brass plumbing fixtures. Drinking water with high levels of lead can cause physical or mental developmental problems, learning disabilities, kidney problems, and high blood pressure.

There are many other water quality parameters that can be tested, including many metals, pesticides, herbicides, volatile organic compounds, and radio nuclides. If you have specific water quality concerns, call our lab at (406) 755-2131 for prices on other tests.



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Proper sample collection is critical.

To sample water for lead, you must take a one liter (quart) sized “first draw” sample. This means sampling after the water has had time to sit in the pipes for about eight hours.

1. Sample from the kitchen sink, first thing in the morning.
2. Open the bottle and place it under the faucet to catch the first drop of COLD water.
3. Fill up the one liter (quart) bottle.

After you have taken your “first draw” sample, then sample for coliform bacteria:

1. Remove the aerator screen from inside the kitchen sink faucet. Be sure to remove all of the aerator and its washer. Dip a paper towel in rubbing alcohol or bleach. Thoroughly clean the inside of the mouth of the faucet and any screw threads with the paper towel.
2. Turn on cold water and reduce the flow to the size of a pencil.
3. Run cold water for 3-5 minutes.
4. Do **NOT** rinse out the bottle. A small white pellet or white powder is supposed to be in the bottle. Tear off the sterile strip. When opening the bottle, do not set the cap down, and do not touch the inside of the cap or the bottle.
5. Fill the bottle to the 100 ml line, or to the neck of the bottle.
6. Cap the bottle immediately after filling.
7. Fill out the form, providing all information requested.
8. **Return the bottle to the lab the same day or the next morning.**