

## Testing Services for Private Water Suppliers

### Drinking Water in Tasmania

The responsibility for providing clean reticulated drinking water in Tasmania lies with TasWater. Where a reticulated water supply is not available the responsibility for providing clean water lies with the private water supplier.

The testing obligations of Private Water Suppliers are specified in the *Tasmanian Drinking Water Guidelines*. These guidelines are legally enforceable under the *Public Health Act (1997)* and compliance is mandated by the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) via local councils. The Tasmanian guideline values are based on the Australian Drinking Water guidelines from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Note that commercial bottled water is covered by different legislation and has different testing requirements.

### Who is a Private Water Supplier?

A Private Water Supplier obtains their drinking water from sources other than those supplied by TasWater, for example from tanks capturing rainwater, from a river, bore or some other source. If the water is available to customers or the public for drinking, then the water may need to be tested periodically to check it is safe and of sufficient quality to avoid health risks.

Tasmania has many locations that are not supplied by reticulated (mains) water where this might apply.

Typical businesses that are not supplied by TasWater that might be required to test include:

- Accommodation (e.g. B&Bs, hotels, motels, caravan parks, camp grounds) including those that do not serve food
- Childcare, out-of-school care, school sites including camps
- Recreation facilities and reserves, including sporting clubs, community halls and other social facilities
- Hospitals, aged care, and health care facilities
- Cafés, tea rooms, cellar doors, etc.

### Tests and Testing Frequency

According to the Tasmanian drinking water guidelines, when establishing the water quality of a Private Water Supply, chemistry (non-microbiological) testing needs to occur monthly for 3 consecutive months, then every 3 months (quarterly) for 3 consecutive periods. Once this establishment phase is complete and there have been no exceedances then testing can be reduced to once a year.

Microbiology (*E.coli*) testing needs to occur every month for 12 months with no detections to establish water quality, then quarterly thereafter.

AST is able to provide NATA accredited analytical results that meet the reporting requirements of the Tasmanian Drinking Water guideline. AST's limits of reporting are all much lower than the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). AST's NATA accredited testing service and low reporting limits will provide the required confidence and credibility to your test results.

AST is co-located with a microbiological testing laboratory in New Town, Hobart. This lends itself to the convenience of a simultaneous sample drop-off for both chemistry and microbiological testing.

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A single drop-off service can also be arranged for northern based clients with a local laboratory in Launceston.

**Tests and Test limits:** tests and test limits required are as follows:

	ADWG Health limit (µg/L)	AST Limit of Reporting (µg/L)
<b>Arsenic (As)</b>	10	1
<b>Barium (Ba)</b>	2 000	1
<b>Cadmium (Cd)</b>	2	0.1
<b>Chromium (Cr)</b>	50	1
<b>Copper (Cu)</b>	2 000	1
<b>Lead (Pb)</b>	5	0.5
<b>Manganese (Mn)</b>	100	1
<b>Mercury (Hg)</b>	1	0.05
<b>Molybdenum (Mo)</b>	50	0.5
<b>Nickel (Ni)</b>	20	0.5
<b>Selenium (Se)</b>	4	2

Microbiology tests (available through AST via another laboratory)

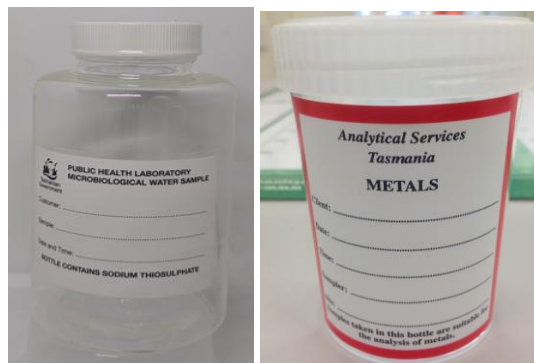
	ADWG Health limit	Laboratory reporting limit
<b>e.coli</b>	<1 per 100mL	<1 MPN/100mL or <1 CFU/100mL

### Sample Bottle Requirements

Please contact AST for a quote before starting any sampling program.

As part of our services, we provide sample bottles specific to individual tests and these are provided free of charge. Sample bottles are prepared and assessed for appropriateness for each test according to our NATA accredited quality system, and every batch of bottles is tested to ensure it is contaminant-free. AST is able to set up regular sample bottle deliveries according to your sampling schedule. Return postage is included in the cost of analysis. Metals analysis requires a 250 mL contamination-free sample bottle.

Note that samples for microbiology tests must be taken in a laboratory-sterilized bottle and must be received by the laboratory within 24 hours of sampling in order to be suitable for analysis.



### References and Further Information

- Local council Environmental Health Officers
- Tasmanian Health Service - Public Health Hotline 1800 671 738
- <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/private-water-suppliers>
- [Private Water Suppliers Guidance Note](#).
- [NHMRC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#)