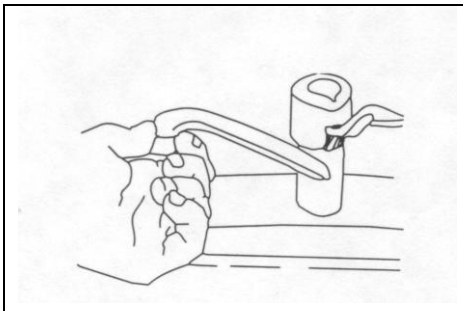
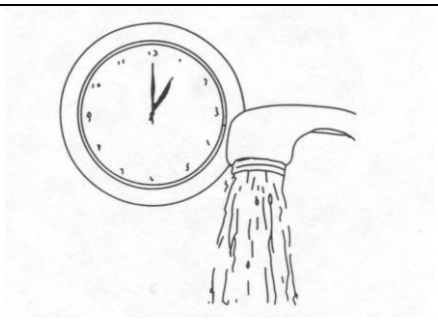
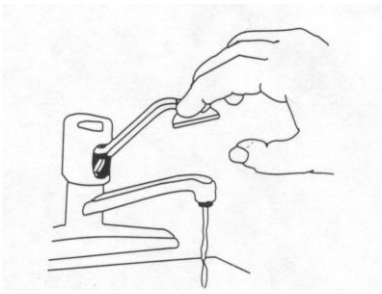
General procedure for collecting water samples if testing for volatile organic chemicals (June 2005, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency)



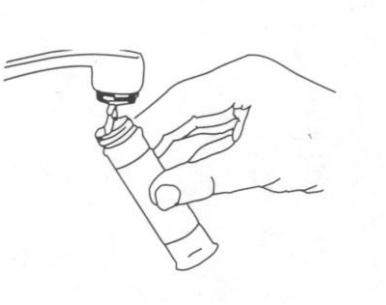
1: Remove the aerator from the indoor leak-free cold water faucet



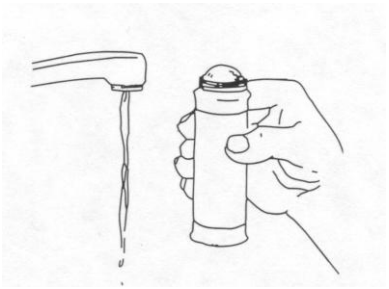
2: Let water run for 15 minutes to assure that you are getting water from the ground-water source (where your well is screened below ground).



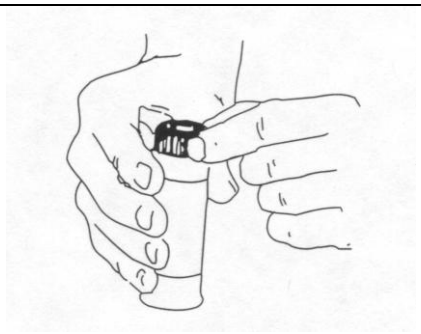
#3 Reduce the water flow until the stream is about ¼ inch in diameter.



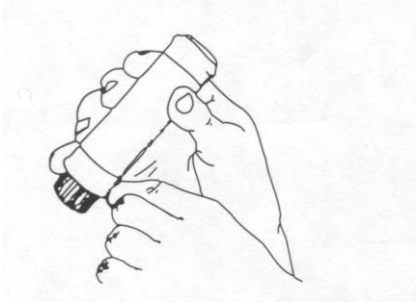
#4 Fill a prepared laboratory container as instructed by the lab. Hold the container at an angle to reduce aeration.



#5 Fill the container until there is a curved surface to the water on top.



#6 Replace the cap. Avoid trapping air between the sample and the cap.



#7 Turn the vial upside down and tap. If bubbles appear, take another sample in a new container.
If **no bubbles** appear, transport the sample as instructed by the laboratory.

Notes:

- Samples should be kept in a cooler with ice for transport to the lab.
- Do not keep samples longer than 24 hours before taking them to a lab.
- **If you use a water softener or filter, take the sample from an outside spigot not affected by those. Be sure to disconnect the hose before taking the sample.**
- Containers have a special preservative for the volatile chemicals. Do not rinse or reuse lab containers or fill to overflowing.
- Always follow the lab directions.