

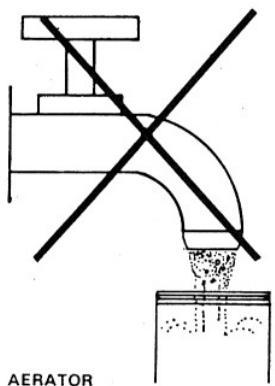
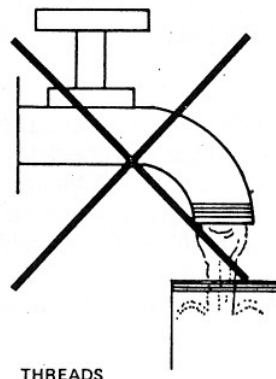
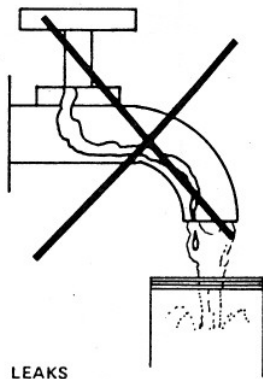
## How Should a Sample be Collected?

In order to have meaningful monitoring data it is essential that sampling taps be selected carefully, correct sampling procedures be followed precisely, samples be identified completely and transported to the laboratory promptly.

When a sample reaches the laboratory, it is assumed that it is representative of the water in the system. The analysis result will be used in determining compliance with the maximum contaminant level. Therefore, it is extremely important that the person collecting the samples know how to select a suitable sampling tap and follow proper sampling techniques. Should an incident occur during sample collection which may result in a contamination, the sample should be discarded and a new bottle requested. (Do NOT send a note with the sample stating that an error may have occurred.) Except in *extremely rare* circumstances, sample results cannot be eliminated from compliance because of a sampling error. Such occurrences must be eliminated and corrected BEFORE the sample is submitted to the laboratory for analysis.

### Selecting the Sampling Tap

Since water samples must be representative of the water quality in the distribution system, it is important to select the proper sampling tap. Taps which are subject to exterior contamination because they are too close to a sink bottom or to the ground must be avoided. It is difficult to place a bottle underneath a low tap without touching the neck interior of the bottle against the outside of the sampling faucet. Threaded taps which might harbor bacteria around the threads should not be used. Leaking taps which allow water to flow around the stem and over the outside of the faucet should be avoided. If an even stream of water cannot be obtained, a more suitable tap should be found. Failure to follow these precautions will most probably result in a contaminated sample.



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