



# INSTRUCTIONS

for the following Test Kits:

**STARTER (10)**

**STARTER (15)**

**STARTER (20)**

SH-ST-INS-00A-002-US

## DO IT YOURSELF

Safe & Easy to Use • At Home Testing • Immediate Results



### PLEASE READ BEFORE STARTING

With Safe Home®, it's more than just testing your water—it's an educational experience!

- Safe Home® test kits are safe & easy to use but are not intended for use by children, without direct adult supervision. Do not ingest or misuse any items in this kit. If improper contact occurs with any testing mechanism and it causes you to feel unwell, consult a physician. Go to [SafeHomeTestKits.com](http://SafeHomeTestKits.com) to learn more.
- Safe Home® has marked each contaminant to be tested, based on USEPA guidelines – \*EPA Primary Regulated Contaminant, \*\*EPA Secondary Regulated Contaminant, (Contaminant of Interest).
- Safe Home® provides USEPA Maximum Contaminant Levels on each color chart (when applicable) for informational purposes only. Contaminant concentrations below MCL's do not guarantee the degree of safety for all who use the water.
- Safe Home® strives for the best in DIY testing. It's a great place to start. However, at times, due to limitations such as background interferences that are out of our (or your) control, values may show bias or be inconclusive.
- Safe Home® offers enhanced kits for testing at our EPA Certified Lab, with quality controls against background interferences for over 200 contaminants. You may go to [SafeHomeTestKits.com](http://SafeHomeTestKits.com) to sign-up for an account, Free.
- Safe Home's test volume is important. Unless stated otherwise, select a cup that holds about 250 ml of water (8.5 fluid ounces). Rinse your cup after each test. When testing from a faucet, draw from the cold-water tap.
- Safe Home® issues instructions to enhance your experience in testing. It is very important that you read each set of instructions COMPLETELY before starting the test. This will benefit you in avoiding possible errors.
- Parts Per Million – ppm or mg/L (milligrams of contaminant per Liter of water).

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

# 1 Getting Started

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

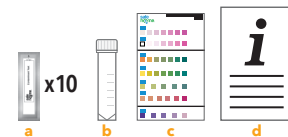
## STARTER (10)

- 6 foil pouches containing 10 tests
- Starter (10) color chart
- These instructions



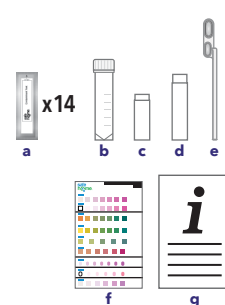
## STARTER (15)

- 10 foil pouches containing 14 tests
- 1 vial (4") with white tamper-evident cap for \*Bacteria test
- Starter (15) color chart
- These instructions



## STARTER (20)

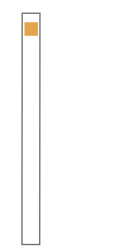
- 14 foil pouches containing 19 tests
- 1 vial (4") with white tamper-evident cap for \*Bacteria test
- 1 small vial (2.25") for Phosphate test
- 1 vial for \*Pesticides & \*Lead test
- 1 eye dropper for \*Pesticides & \*Lead test
- Starter (20) color chart
- These instructions



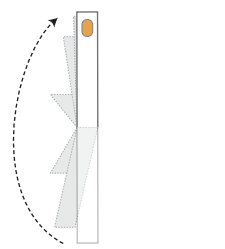
# 2 Test Strip Handling

### TEST STRIP TYPES

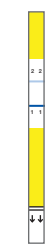
Three types of dip tests are used throughout the testing process for the different contaminants—Padded Test Strips (2a), Aperture Test Strips (2b), and Line Test Strips (2c). Before conducting each individual test, determine the type of test strip being used, for it will affect the color matching technique. Always be sure to grasp the handle end of the test strip.



2a. Padded Test Strip  
Color change on the surface of the test pads indicates contaminant level.



2b. Aperture Test Strip  
After removing from water, fold strip at mid-point, back and under the aperture for a white viewing background and more accurate color reading.



2c. Line Test Strip  
Blue lines will appear in different places on the test strip, indicating a positive or negative test result.

# 3 TESTING TERMINOLOGY

### FRESHLY DRAW

Collect a new water sample for each test.

### MEDIA

A substance that assists in determining the presence or absence of a contaminant.

### CONDITIONING

Stabilizes the water sample to provide a more accurate test value.

### INTERFERENCES

Physical or chemical factors that can cause errors in test results.

### INCUBATION TIME

Time needed for a reaction to occur to determine the presence or absence of bacteria.

### DESICCANT

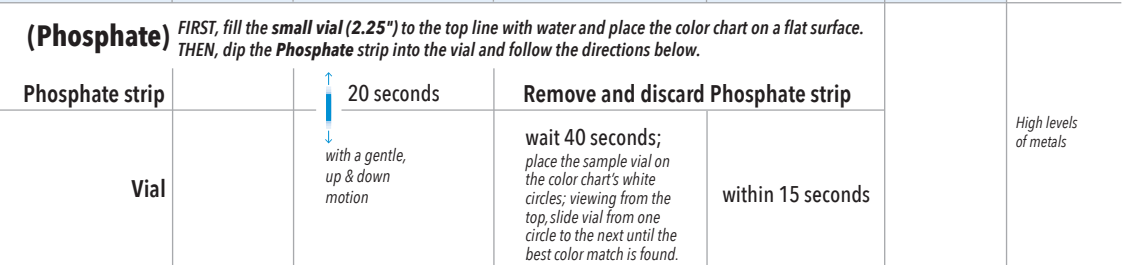
Object in the package that absorbs moisture and preserves the testing supplies.

# 4 Conducting Water Quality Tests

The first **TEN** contaminants listed are included in test kits **STARTER (10)**, **STARTER (15)**, **STARTER (20)**.  
The first **FIFTEEN** contaminants listed are included in test kits **STARTER (15)**, **STARTER (20)**.  
All **TWENTY** contaminants listed are included in test kit **STARTER (20)**.



Contaminant	Strip Type	Time	Wait Time	Match Time	Interferences
4 in 1 **pH (Total Alkalinity) (Total Chlorine) (Total Hardness)	Padded	5 seconds	wait 10 seconds	within 20 seconds	Other oxidizers
	Aperture	5 seconds	wait 10 seconds	within 20 seconds	Other oxidizers
**Iron, Fe <sup>+2</sup>	Padded	1 second	wait 30 seconds while waiting, fold strip's handle behind its aperture (view 2b)	within 20 seconds	None Known
**Copper, Cu <sup>+1+2</sup>	Padded	15 seconds	wait 30 seconds while waiting, fold strip's handle behind its aperture (view 2b)	within 20 seconds	High levels of other metals
2 in 1 *Nitrite as N   *Nitrate as N	Padded	2 seconds	wait 60 seconds	within 60 seconds	None Known
**Sulfate	Padded	10 seconds	wait 20 seconds	within 20 seconds	None Known
**Total Dissolved Solids	Padded	2 seconds	wait 10 seconds	within 20 seconds	None Known
*Hexavalent Chromium, Cr <sup>+6</sup>	Padded	2 seconds	wait 30 seconds	within 45 seconds	High levels of other metals
(Free Chlorine)	Padded	20 seconds	wait 20 seconds	within 15 seconds	Other oxidizers
**Zinc	Padded	3 seconds	wait 20 seconds	within 20 seconds	High levels of other metals
**Chloride	Padded	10 seconds	wait 30 seconds	within 10 seconds	High levels of other metals
*Bacteria – Coliform, including E. Coli	Vial	see next page for test instructions			None Known
*Mercury	Padded	60 seconds	wait 30 seconds while waiting, fold strip's handle behind its aperture (view 2b)	within 15 seconds	High levels of other metals or presence of oxidizers such as Chlorine
**Silver	Padded	30 seconds	wait 10 seconds while waiting, fold strip's handle behind its aperture (view 2b)	within 20 seconds	High levels of other metals or presence of oxidizers such as Chlorine

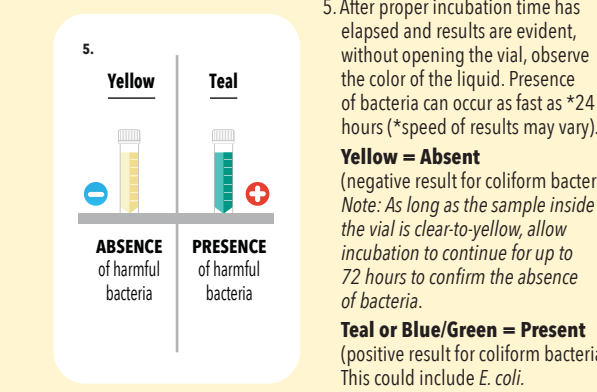


*Pesticides	see next page for test instructions				In rare cases, blue lines won't appear on one or both test strips, or the lines will be very light. This is caused by uncontrollable background interferences, rendering the respective test as inconclusive.
*Lead	see next page for test instructions				

## \*Bacteria – Coliform, including E. Coli

- Wash your hands before starting. Remove the test vial (4") with the white tamper-evident cap from the test kit box.
- Turn on cold water tap and allow it to run for about 5 minutes and then reduce the flow to about the diameter of a pencil. Remove the white cap completely. Tilt the vial slightly and slowly fill the vial to the 25 mL mark. It is best to not go above this mark. **DO NOT overflow the vial (may create invalid results).**
- Replace the cap tightly. Shake well, until the media inside the vial is dissolved completely. Set the vial in an upright position and on a flat surface.

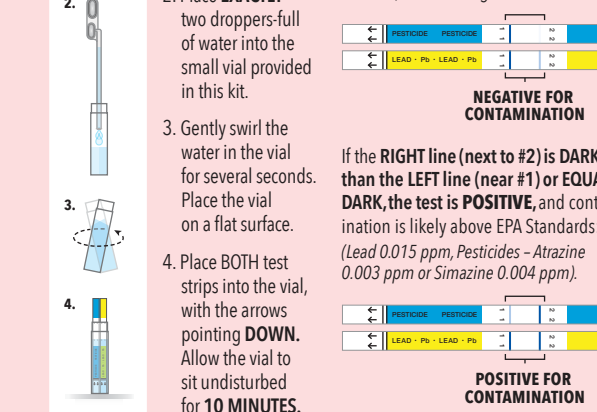
4. Incubate your water sample between (70 °F - 105 °F or 21 °C - 40 °C), indoors or outdoors but out of direct sunlight. A temperature of 95.5 °F / 35.3 °C is best.



- When test is complete, open vial and discard liquid into toilet. Place a few drops of household bleach into the vial, cap it, shake it and once again discard the contents into the toilet. Recap the vial. Place in a trash can. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.

## \*Pesticides & \*Lead

- Taking the foil pouch marked **Pesticides & Lead**, remove the vial, eye dropper, Pesticide test strip (blue) and Lead test strip (yellow) from the package. The desiccant can be discarded.
- Place **EXACTLY** two droppers-full of water into the small vial provided in this kit.
- Gently swirl the water in the vial for several seconds. Place the vial on a flat surface.
- Place **BOTH** test strips into the vial, with the arrows pointing **DOWN**. Allow the vial to sit undisturbed for **10 MINUTES**.



## Safe Home's 1-2-3 Step Program Makes You the Family's Drinking Water Expert!

- GET STARTED** by using a Safe Home® DIY Test Kit to screen your water supply.
- CONFIRMATION TESTING** allows you to purchase an enhanced Safe Home® test kit to confirm contaminant concentrations with testing from our EPA Certified Water Testing Lab at [SafeHomeTestKits.com](http://SafeHomeTestKits.com).
- FREE RESOURCES** provide solutions to your problems with water contamination. Learn about more than 200 contaminants in drinking water at [SafeHomeTestKits.com](http://SafeHomeTestKits.com) under "RESOURCES."

