

Bacteriological Testing

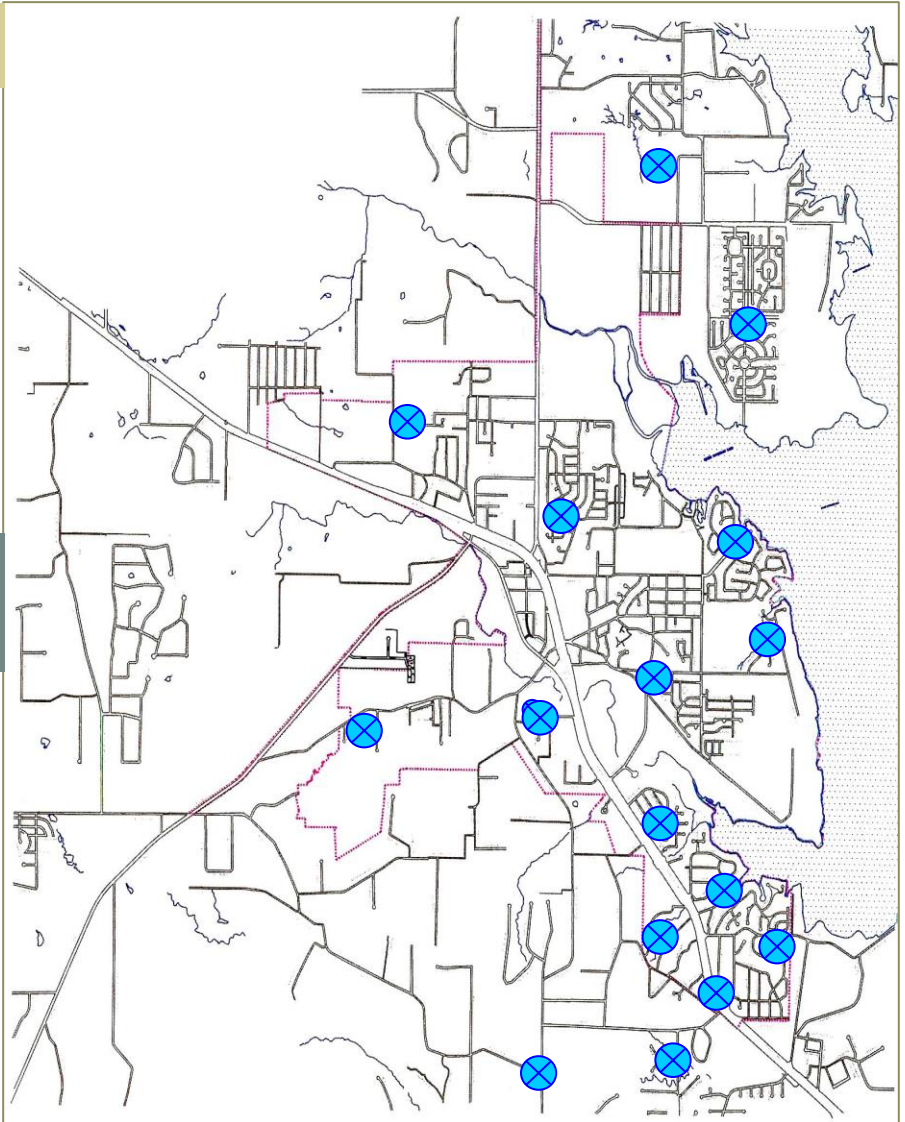
Azle's Commitment to Safe Potable Water

What Do We Test For?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

Where Do We Collect Samples?

Each month, the City collects 16 samples from designated locations that are representative of the distribution system (shown in the illustration at right). New water lines are also tested before being put into service. Samples are collected by a State certified operator and delivered to the Tarrant County Health Department lab for analysis.



How Are Samples Analyzed & What Happens With The Results?



Samples are analyzed using a Presence / Absence method; simply put, coliforms are either present, or not. This process involves a 18-hour incubation period once a selective media (food for bacteria) is added to each sample collected. If bacteria are present a color change in the sample occurs; otherwise, the sample stays clear (illustration at left). The lab reports results to the City and the TCEQ to decide if any further action is necessary. If a sample is positive, the City is required to resample within 24-hours to determine if sampling error caused the positive result; sampling error is the most common reason for positive samples.

For more information on this and other water related topics, please contact the Azle Water Treatment Plant at 817-752-2686.