Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

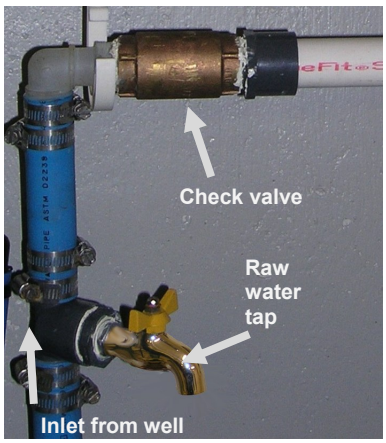
Raw Water Sampling Taps

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program • 11 SHS Augusta, ME 04330 • 287-2070 • www.medwp.com

Raw Water Sampling Taps are Required under Maine Rules Related to Drinking Water

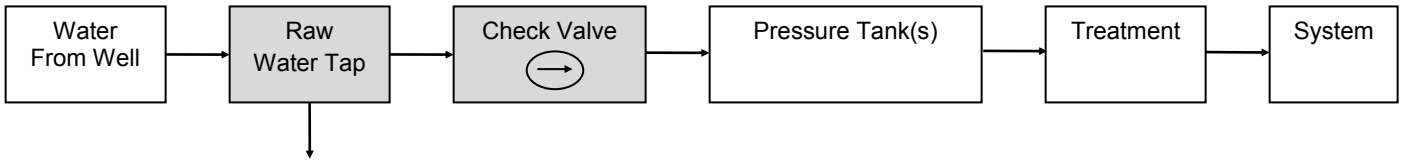
All new public water systems in Maine are required to install a raw water sampling tap, also known as a source water sampling tap or well water tap. Raw water taps sampling ports must be located before any treatment or storage. Raw water sampling taps help to identify the problem area when a water sample tests positive for bacteria.

Under the Ground Water Rule, a raw water sampling tap is required for existing water systems using groundwater if a positive bacteria sample occurs. As a result, the Drinking Water Program (DWP) requires any existing public water system that does not have a raw water sampling tap to install one.



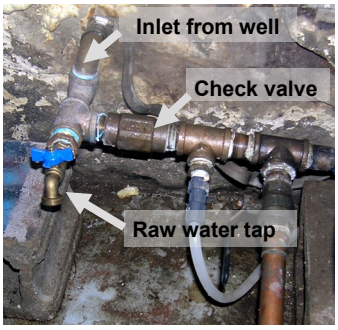
Raw Water Tap Design Installation Requirements and Guidelines

A proper raw water sampling tap is a tap installed before any pressure tanks and followed by a check valve as seen in the flow diagram below:



This configuration ensures that the raw water sampling tap allows for sampling of only the source water of a public water system, and that the pressure tank and treatment system will not influence the quality of the water being sampled from the raw water tap.

Best Design Practices for Raw Water Sampling Taps



- A horizontal valve with a short outlet.
- Outlet that will drain completely when valve is closed (not a vertical pipe with gooseneck down).
- Outlet that can be disinfected easily with bleach (an outlet with a smooth nosed tap is recommended).
- Valve and outlet that are at least 2-3 feet off the floor such that water running from tap is enough to thoroughly flush out piping.

For more information about the proper installation of raw water sampling taps, contact a licensed plumber, licensed well driller, or the Drinking Water Program.