

WATER SAMPLING FOR FECAL COLIFORMS DETERMINATION

The custody page must contain sampling date, time sampled, and sample source. This is needed to determine whether or not samples are within hold times and analysis procedure. If you are looking for Total coliforms please inform us if you would like Presence/Absence

SAMPLE COLLECTION

All water samples must be taken in approved, sterile sampling containers, which our laboratory can provide upon request. Treated (municipality / distribution systems) water samples must be de-chlorinated with sodium thio-sulfate (this is already in bottles that would be provided by our laboratory). Keep sampling bottle closed until it is to be filled.

DISTRIBUTION OR SINK TAP SAMPLE

Collect the sample from a source water outlet. Do not use a hydrant, hose, or any faucet located outside of building

Remove any aerators or other devices from the outlet to be sampled (These devices may be heavily contaminated and may alter the water sample result)

Do not sample from a tap that is obviously contaminated

Disinfect the end of the faucet with bleach solution, alcohol wipes or by flaming

Run the cold water for at least two to three minutes or for a time sufficient to permit clearing the service line.

Adjust the flow of the stream to ensure that no splashing occurs

Use a sterile cup as your sampling container. A minimum of 100mL of water is needed for

WELL SAMPLES

If a sample is taken from a well fitted with a hand pump, pump water to waste for about 5 minutes before collecting sample. If the well is equipped with a mechanical pump, collect sample from a tap on the discharge. If there is no pumping machinery, collect sample directly from the well by means of a sterilized bottle fitted with a weight at the base; take care to avoid contaminating sample by any surface scum.

HOLD TIMES

Fecal coliforms must be run within 6 hours of samples collection.

Total coliforms, E. coli, Fecal streptococcus, Sewage Screen, Legionella sp., and Heterotrophic Plate Count samples need to be run within 24 hours of sample collection.

If client is aware that hold times are going to be exceeded but would like analysis done anyway, please indicate this on the Chain of Custody.

If hold times are exceeded results are invalid and this will be noted on reports.

TURN AROUND TIMES

Total coliform-Presence/Absence (Colilert) results can be given in 24 hours.

SAMPLE SHIPPING

All samples must be shipped cold, not frozen and should remain up right. The best way to ship method of shipment for these samples is with an insulant box with reusable cold bags .

Samples that are not shipped properly can become contaminated or may be rejected by the lab.