

Taking A Total Coliform Bacteria Sample Properly

Sometimes water samples fail a total coliform bacteria test because of sampling error, not because the water system is actually contaminated. To ensure that this does not happen to you follow these steps when taking a coliform sample from your water System.



Step One



DO NOT RINSE OUT THE BOTTLE
The powder in the bottle is meant to be there and will not contaminate your sample.

Step Two



WASH YOUR HANDS
Prior to taking the sample. Then remove the sterile strip from the bottle.

Step Three



REMOVE FAUCET SCREEN
Or other hoses or aerators from the end of the faucet. If possible avoid using a faucet that swivels.

Step Four



DISINFECT THE FAUCET
By dipping the end in a cap full of bleach before running the water. This is optional but is a good idea.

Step Five



RUN COLD WATER FOR AT LEAST 2 MINUTES
To ensure that the water you are sampling has not been sitting in the pipes or tanks for a long time.

Step Six



TURN THE WATER DOWN
So it does not splash. Fill the bottle to at least the fill line (100ml). Do not fill it all the way up to the top, allow 1" head space.

Step Seven



SCREW CAP ON TIGHTLY
Take special care not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle. If you do, start with a new bottle.

Step Eight



FILL OUT PAPERWORK AND MAIL IT
Keep a copy for your files. Pack the sample in a Styrofoam container or bubble wrap when mailing so the bottle doesn't break.

If you're in a remote area, make sure you know the scheduled flights, and verify if the flights will be in. Take a sample as close to departure as possible.

Important! The lab must receive the sample when they are open and within 30 hours of collection

Keep the sample cool by placing samples in a cooler with an ice pack. Do not Freeze.