



Total Coliform and E.Coli Sampling – Drinking Water

1. If the faucet has an aerator remove it prior to sampling. Swab the tap with bleach around the end of the tap and in the threads.
2. Run the cold water for about 5 minutes. Turn the water down to a trickle.
3. Remove the plastic seal from the bottle and throw away the seal.
4. Carefully fill to the bottom of the bottle's threads. We cannot accept the sample if there is less than 105 ml. Do not overflow the bottle.

NOTE: The tablet or powder in the bottle is Sodium Thiosulfate, a dechlorinating agent. Do not rinse the bottle.

5. Without touching the inside of the cap or bottle, place the cap back on the bottle and tighten it.
6. The sample must be returned to the lab immediately after collection. The holding time for drinking water coliform is 30 hours. Samples must be received at the lab no later than 24 hours after collection.
7. Transport the sample to the lab on ice. It is best if the sample is $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ and not frozen.



NOTE: Lab Hours are 0800-1630 (8AM-4:30PM) Monday –Friday. Coliform samples should come in Monday – Thursday by 1600 (4PM) unless arrangements have been made in advance.

Coliform samples that are received at the lab on a Friday will incur a \$25.00 surcharge to cover required weekend work.