



WATER COLLECTION CRITERIA FOR TOTAL COLIFORMS/E. COLI TESTING

SAMPLE RECEIVING & PAYMENT:

- Samples may be submitted to the lab Mon - Thurs, 8:30-5PM, Price = \$45.00/sample
- Test results shall be released 48 hours following sample receipt.
- Samples submitted Fri, Sat or Sun must be pre-approved by HPE and will be charged \$90/sample. Results will be released on the following business day.
- Samples can be submitted Monday - Thursday for a rush turn around time; results released in 26 hours. Price = \$90/sample.
- **PAYMENT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR PERSONAL/COMPANY CHECK ONLY!**

SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

The proper collection, preservation & transportation of water samples are critical to the results of water quality analyses. In order to assure the integrity of the samples, and thus accurate results, please use the following guidelines when collecting & transporting water for potability testing.

1. Our containers may have either a small white tablet or white powder in them. Leave this in the container.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly before collecting samples.
3. Prior to collecting samples, open the cold-water tap and allow it to run for 3-4 minutes. Do not take samples from a tap that allows water to run over the outside area of the tap. **IF THE TAP HAS A MESH SCREEN, AERATOR OR PURIFICATION DEVICE, REMOVE IT AND ALLOW THE WATER TO RUN FOR 3-4 ADDITIONAL MINUTES.**
4. Unscrew the lid of the container & fill the container to just above “**EPA FILL LINE**” (for a total of 110-120 ml of water) & securely close the container. **DO NOT** let anything but water touch the lip & inside of the sterile container or the underside of lid.
5. If it is going to be more than 1- hour before the sample is delivered to the lab, then the sample should be refrigerated immediately after collection. Samples should be transported to the laboratory in a cooler, with a cool pack or a watertight plastic bag and some ice.
6. **IN ACCORDANCE WITH EPA ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES SAMPLES MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE LABORATORY WITHIN 24 HOURS OF COLLECTION.** Samples that do not meet these criteria will not be processed. Excessive delay in submitting samples or the use of non-laboratory containers may invalidate the results.

PLEASE NOTE: Samples with high levels of chlorine will not be tested for Coliforms/E. coli. The client will be notified and the tests will have to be run a new sample with the chlorine at an acceptable level. The first analyses will cost \$25; the cost of the chlorine test. The new analyses will be full price.