



CALTEST SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS- BACTERIOLOGICAL

Analyses and holding times

Analysis	Method	Holding time
Coliform (Total/E.Coli)	SM 9223 B	24 hours drinking water
Coliform (Total/Fecal)	SM 9221 B/E	8 hours wastewater/stormwater; 24 hours drinking water
Enterococcus	Enterolert	8 hours
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC/SPC)	SM 9215C	8 hours

Container: 125 or 250 mL plastic sterile container with Sodium Thiosulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$)

Coliform is an indicator bacteria which is not found naturally below the ground or in ground water, but it is abundant above ground and found on the surface of nearly everything. This is why the steps below should be followed in order to avoid any potential contamination.

The bottle received from Caltest is sterile and has a clear plastic seal around the lid. Request a new container if the seal is broken or missing. Each bottle contains a dechlorination reagent that looks like a white powder – DO NOT RINSE.

Sampling Drinking Water Sources: Pick a cold water tap that is commonly used. Do not use a swivel faucet. Do not open bottle prior to step 7 (below).

1. Remove any tap attachments (filters, aerators, etc.).
2. Let the water run for 5 to 10 minutes.
3. Turn water off, and clean opening of faucet with rubbing alcohol, inside and outside.
4. Turn water on, but limit flow of water to a 'pencil-size' stream. If possible, avoid any spraying or splashing.
5. Label the bottle (with a waterproof marker): Name, sample location, and sample date/time.
6. Hold the sample container near the bottom.
7. Remove and discard seal around lid. Remove lid without touching the neck of the bottle or inside of lid. Note that the bottle has a 100 mL line and a 120 mL fill line.
8. Carefully insert opening of bottle into the 'pencil-size' stream. Avoid splashing or over-filling. **Fill the bottle between the two lines. Try not to fill beyond the 120 mL line. The analysis cannot be performed without a minimum of 100 mL.**
9. Recap container and tighten. Please store/transport on ice or in a refrigerator ($<10^\circ\text{C}$) and return to lab within 12 hours of sample collection, on ice.

Please contact Caltest Client Services with any questions: 707/258-4000 or pmgr@caltestlabs.com

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