



Plattsburgh Lab
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Total Coliform and E.Coli Sampling – Drinking Water

1. If the faucet has an aerator, remove it prior to sampling. Swab the tap with rubbing alcohol 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 the bottle to EXACTLY the 120mL fill-line on the bottle. (This is the TOP of the two lines!) Do not overflow the bottle. Do not rinse the bottle.

NOTE: If the sampling site contains chlorine, a sodium thiosulfate preserved bottle (Green Label) must be used. If the sampling site does not contain chlorine (raw, waived, UV, or surface water), an unpreserved bottle must be used.

Bottles that are not filled to EXACTLY the 120mL fill line may be rejected.



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 less than 6°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 \$100.00 surcharge to cover required weekend work in addition to the cost of the testing.