

Coliform – E.Coli Sample Collection Tips

Avoid cross-contamination: Be sure to wash your hands with soap and warm water prior to handling the collection bottle.

Prepare to collect: Remove any filters, faucet screens/aerators, or any other water treatment equipment. For bacteria testing, it is recommended to disinfect the faucet by wiping it with rubbing alcohol.

Run the water: Prior to collection, run the cold water for 2-3 minutes from the tap.

Handle Carefully: Take care not to touch the bottle opening or the inside of the faucet. DO NOT RINSE the bottle out. Often there will be a preservative included in the bottle (in the form of white residue or crystals) that is needed for the laboratory test.

Collect your sample: Fill the bottle to the level indicated or as directed by the laboratory. Replace the cap and tighten, being careful not touch the inside of the bottle or lid.

Keep it cool: Samples need to be submitted as soon as possible after collection. Keep the sample cool by keeping it on ice during transit.

Fill out the paperwork: Complete all Chain of Custody paperwork provided by the laboratory.

Avoid the weekend: Samples are not accepted on Fridays.

Reference:

1. Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories Inc. Westbrook, Maine, USA