

DRINKING WATER BACTERIA SAMPLING



Enviro
Lab Services

E. coli + Total Coliform | Sterile 120 mL HDPE Bottle (WHITE DOT on Bottle Cap)

1

Use only the lab-supplied sterile 120 mL bottle.

2

Do not rinse the bottle or discard the preservative. Do not touch the inside of bottle or cap.

3

Collect from a clean cold-water tap unless lab or project instructions specify first-draw or designated sample point.

4

Fill to the 100 mL line

1. PLAN

- Collect as close to lab delivery as practical.
- Record the exact collection date and time.
- Return the sample promptly; compliance samples must allow analysis to begin within 30 hours.

3. CHOOSE A TAP

- Use a clean cold-water tap when possible.
- Remove aerators, screens, hoses, or filters if practical.
- For public-water compliance samples, use the approved sampling location.

5. OPEN THE BOTTLE

- Hold the cap by the outside only.
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or bottle.
- Do not set the cap down.
- Do not rinse the bottle.

7. CAP, LABEL & CHILL

- Cap immediately and tighten securely.
- Label location, date, exact time, and collector name if applicable.
- Keep refrigerated or in a cooler with ice packs.
- Keep at $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ (39°F) when possible. DO NOT FREEZE.

2. WASH HANDS

- Wash hands or use clean disposable gloves before opening the bottle.

4. PREPARE THE TAP

- Run cold water for several minutes, or long enough to clear the service line.
- Use cold water only.
- If required by the lab or sampling plan, disinfect the tap and flush again.
- Never sample from a hot-water line.

6. FILL TO 100 mL

- Reduce the flow to a gentle stream to avoid splashing.
- Fill exactly to the marked 100 mL line.
- Do not underfill or overfill.

8. DELIVER TO THE LAB

- Deliver as soon as possible.
- Warm, frozen, leaking, unlabeled, underfilled, overfilled, or late samples may require recollection.

SAMPLE CHECK

GOOD SAMPLE

- ✓ Sterile lab bottle used
- ✓ Filled to 100 mL line
- ✓ Cap/bottle interior not touched
- ✓ Bottle not rinsed; preservative retained
- ✓ Date and exact time recorded
- ✓ Kept cold and not frozen
- ✓ Delivered promptly

MAY REQUIRE RECOLLECTION

- Bottle rinsed or preservative discarded
- Cap or bottle interior touched or contaminated
- Cap set down on an unclean surface
- Underfilled, overfilled, leaking, or frozen
- Missing collection date/time or poor labeling
- Collected from an unapproved compliance site
- Received too late for the 30-hour analytical limit

For public water supply compliance samples, use approved sampling locations and submit to a certified drinking water laboratory.

Enviro Lab Services | Customer Sampling Instructions

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