

The Keeping People Safe Since 1992 Water Sampling Instructions

When submitting water sample for testing Sample(s) must be:

- Collected aseptically for accurate result and avoid potential cross contamination.
- Submitted in a sterile container that can hold at least 100 ml.
 - If testing for only coliform – 100 ml sample is a must for all methods (Membrane filtration, Colilert, MPN).
 - If testing for heterotrophic plate count by membrane filtration method, additional 100 mL is needed.
- Submitted to the lab for testing within 24hours of collection.
- Sample should **Not be FROZEN**.

Sample Collection

- Before collecting water sample, wash your hands to avoid potential cross contamination.
- Label all containers per location or sampling point.
- Remove strainer or filter where applicable and flush the system by opening the faucet and allowing water to flow for about 2 minutes.
- Sanitize the faucet (spigot) or sample port with alcohol or alcohol wipe.
- Reduce the flow rate to collect sample aseptically, without splashing.
- Fill to 100 ml mark (no more than 2 ml over if using **Colilert bottle**).

If collecting in Colilert bottle

- Do not rinse the thiosulphate (white powder) out.
- This denatures any chlorine present that may affect testing for accurate results.
- Do not or allow anything to touch the rim or inside of the bottle or inner surface of the neck.
- Immediately recap bottle tightly after sampling to ensure sample does not spill in transit.

Sample submission to the lab

- Ensure that all samples have been labeled.
- Fill out an AFL microbiology sample submission form with the corresponding sample description including matrix (WW- Wastewater, DW- Drinking Water, SW- Surface Water, GW-Ground Water, or Other).
- If annual water testing and heavy metal is required, use an AFL general submission form.
- Select the test to be performed (Coliform, E. coli, Fecal coliform, heterotrophic plate count (HPC) etc.)
- Place sample(s) in an insulated box with ice packs. This ensures that the sample stays cool enough to protect viable cells that may be present.
- **Do not freeze the sample(s)**
- Ship sample to lab with accompanying submission form.

When do I get my results (TAT)?

- Testing starts the same day sample is received.
- Results reporting depends on the method selected (membrane filtration, Qualitative presence/Absent or fermentation tube method (MPN).
- For all methods, results will be ready within 24-48 hours.

***Additional days may be needed to confirm presumptive colonies. ***

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Additional supplies

- Do you need more supplies (sampling bags or other sampling vessel)?
 - Go to afltexas.com.
 - Click on client resources and locate supplies request form.
 - Fill out a supply request form, and email to supplies@afltexas.com

- Do you want to take the stress/hassle out of ordering supplies?
 - Contact the lab to set up a recurring order and supplies will be delivered on time to meet your testing requirement.