



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023  
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

## SAMPLE COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Bacteriologic (Total Coliforms/ E coli) Water Test 8040

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C – 8 °C / 36 °F – 46 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 30 hours (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

#### KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 25 °C / 59 °F – 77 °F)

Expiration: kit must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label

#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Water: 100.0 mL in Idexx Bottle

*Water level must be exactly at fill line or slightly over.*

*A sample even slightly under the line will be rejected.*

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

8040: Total Coliforms & E. coli Bacteria, Presence/Absence

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- **Holding Time Exceeded**: Holding time greater than 30 hours.
- **No Sample ID on Bottle**: There is no sample ID on the bottle.
- **Sample ID Mismatch**: The sample ID on the bottle does not match the requisition form.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient**: Sample volume less than 97.5 mL.
- **Inappropriate Holding Temperature**: Temperature upon arrival is greater than 25 °C, less than 0 °C or contains ice. Note: recommended storage temperature is 2 °C - 8 °C.
- **Sample Leaked in Transit**: Container lid not properly threaded.
- **Evidence of Excess Chlorination**: Sample smells frankly chlorinated or results in a blue/purple flash upon addition of the Colilert media packet.
- **Inappropriate Sample Container**: Sample submitted in container other than those provided by the lab. Note: our containers are assessed to meet the required quality control parameters.
- **Sample Appears Discolored or Contains Sediment**: Water samples containing humic or other material may be colored. Overtly contaminated samples are not acceptable; however, if the water contains a small amount of precipitate or background color, it may be tested. If there is a background color, use a control blank of the same water sample for reference. If unsure regarding sample appearance, discuss with Laboratory.



**Idexx Water  
Collection Bottle**

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

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## Bacteriologic (Total Coliforms/ E coli) Water Test 8040

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### SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory accepts water samples Monday thru Thursday (except on County holidays) no later than 3:30 p.m. Water samples are accepted on Friday on an emergency basis, after consulting with the Laboratory. You may bring the water to be tested to the Health Departments in Paso Robles before 11:00 a.m. or Grover Beach before 9:00 a.m. (except on County holidays). Water samples may be brought directly to the Laboratory at 2191 Johnson Ave, San Luis Obispo between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The sample should be collected the same day unless prior arrangements are made since samples older than 30 hours cannot be tested.
  2. Only sterile containers supplied by this laboratory can be used.
  3. DO NOT COLLECT SAMPLES FROM A SWIVEL HEAD FAUCET. When taking water samples, remove the aerator; flush the lines by opening the cold water tap and running water for 2 to 5 minutes. Carefully open the bottle — do not touch the inside of the bottle or lid—do not rinse out the bottle. Fill the bottle carefully to the 100 ml line on the bottle (DO NOT OVERFILL), making sure the powder stays in the bottle. Close the cap tightly.
  4. It is important to fill all the information requested on the laboratory requisition (test request form). Write your name on the bottle and the physical address where the sample was collected.
  5. Water must be kept at refrigerator temperature at all times (use ice cooler for transport) until delivered to the Health Department site or directly to the Public Health Laboratory (inside the SLO Health Department building).
  6. Cost of testing is posted at <http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab>, payable when the water sample is delivered to any Health Department. If testing shows the drinking water is unsafe to drink, a “Retest” sample will incur the same fee. Any Health Department office can supply you with a laboratory approved water container.
  7. Please note on the laboratory requisition if the water test is for FHA, VA, or Cal-Vet Loans.
- We are unable to test for metals or minerals at this time.

Call (805) 781-5507 if you have any questions or contact the Health Department in your area:

Grover Beach Health Dept. (805) 473-7050, 286 S. 16th Street, Grover Beach

Paso Robles Health Dept. (805) 237-3050, 723 Walnut Street, Paso Robles