



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.slopublichealth.org/lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Recreational/Ambient Water

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2°C – 8°C / 35.6°F – 46.4°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.

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Water: Ocean, Bay, Creek, Storm, Pond, etc. Most waters except drinking and pool.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

8910: Fecal Coliforms, Most Probable Number, Multiple Tube Fermentation, A-1
(Recreational/Ambient Waters)



**Sterile Click Seal
Bottle**

REJECTION CRITERIA

- **Holding Time Exceeded:** Holding time greater than 30 hours.
- **No Sample ID on Bottle:** ID from submitter not on the bottle.
- **Sample ID Mismatch:** The sample ID on the bottle does not match the requisition form.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient:** Requested volume is 100mL (marked as “cc” on bottle). A minimum of 60 mL is required.
- **Inappropriate Holding Temperature:** Temperature upon arrival is greater than 10°C. Recommended storage temperature is 2°C - 8°C.

Note: A temperature blank is to be included to represent the temperature of samples upon receipt at the laboratory. Temperature should be equivalent or less than that of the water sample.

- **Sample Leaked in Transit:** Container lid not properly threaded.
- **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.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Keep the sampling bottle unopened until right before filling. For sampling hold the bottle near the base and plunge it neck downward below the surface. Once below the surface tilt the bottle to allow filling. During filling the bottle should be pushed horizontally forward in a direction away from the hand to avoid contamination.

Do not touch the threads, inside, or lid interior of the bottle. Touching the interior of the bottle contaminates the sample and may affect results. If sample/bottle is contaminated, collect a new sample. The contaminated sample may be used as the temperature blank. To allow for shaking, please do not fill bottle completely full.