



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

Heterotrophic Plate Count Water Test

8045

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: Refrigerated 2–8°C (36–46°F), not frozen.

Maximum Holding Time: 8 hours (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory incubator).

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

KIT (BOTTLE) STORAGE

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

Expiration: bottle 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.



**Idexx Water
Collection Bottle**

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

8045: Heterotrophic Plate Count (Drinking, Dental, Spa, and Swimming Pool water)

Other: Call Laboratory to discuss

REJECTION CRITERIA

- **Holding Time Exceeded:** Holding time greater than 8 hours.
- **No Sample ID on Bottle:** There is nothing written on the bottle.
- **Sample ID Mismatch:** The sample ID on the bottle and form do not match.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient:** Sample volume less than 97.5 mL.
- **Inappropriate Holding Temperature:** Temperature upon arrival is less than 0°C or contains ice.
Note: The recommended storage temperature is refrigerated (2–8°C.). There is no maximum temperature, but the samples are to be kept chilled during transport and storage.
- **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.
- **Evidence of Excess Chlorination:** Sample smells frankly chlorinated or results in a blue/purple flash upon addition of the Colilert media packet.
- **Sample Appears Overly Discolored or Contains Excess Sediment:** If the water contains a small amount of precipitate or background color, it may be tested.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Bacteriologic (Total Coliforms/*E. coli*) Water Test

8040, 8350

SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. Use **only sterile containers supplied by this laboratory**. Sample bottles can be picked up and dropped off at any of the three Public Health Department locations below.

	Pick-Up Sample Bottles	Drop-Off Samples
SLO*	M-F 8-5	M-Th** by 3:30 p.m.
Paso*	M-F 8-5	M-Th** by 11:00 a.m.
Grover*	M-Thursday 8-5	M-Th** by 9:00 a.m.

**Closed on County holidays*

***Water samples can be accepted on Fridays on an emergency basis, call Laboratory for approval.*

2. 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 3 minutes.
3. Carefully open the bottle — **do not touch the inside** of the bottle or lid.
4. **Do not rinse** out the bottle and **do not touch or dump** out the white powder.
5. Fill the bottle carefully to **the 100 ml line** on the bottle (**DO NOT UNDERFILL** or **OVERFILL**), making sure the powder stays in the bottle. Close the cap tightly.
6. **Fill in all the requested fields** on the laboratory requisition (test request form). For guidance filling out the requisition, see Environmental Testing Requisition Instructions document or contact us. Create a sample ID number and write it on both the bottle and the requisition.
7. Water must begin cooling, to refrigerator temperature, immediately after collection. **Use cooler** with ice packs or equivalent for transport. Do not freeze.
8. Cost of testing is posted at <http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab>, payable when the water sample is delivered to any Public Health Department. If testing shows the drinking water is unsafe to drink, a "Retest" sample will incur the same fee.
9. 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 currently.

For any assistance, call the Laboratory at **(805) 781-5507** or contact a Public Health Department in your area:

San Luis Obispo Health Dept.
(805) 781-5500
2191 Johnson Ave
SLO, 93401

Grover Beach Health Dept.
(805) 473-7050
286 S. 16th Street
Grover Beach, 93433

Paso Robles Health Dept.
(805) 237-3050
805 4th Street, Suite #201
Paso Robles, 93446