



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

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Payment for water testing can be made by cash, check, or credit card at the reception desk upon sample drop-off. The reception desk may be closed from 12 to 1 pm on business days.
2. When payment is not made at sample drop-off, an invoice will be mailed to you. The invoice can be paid by cash, check, or credit card, and instructions will appear with the invoice.
3. For any billing questions, please contact (805) 781-5507 (option 1).
4. For fee information, refer to the laboratory website (www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab).

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 reach the black fill line or be slightly over.

A sample under the line will be rejected.

Fill Line →



**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 or Sample ID Mismatch**.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient**: Sample volume less than 100 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.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

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

8040, 8350

- **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 has residual chlorine based on a strip test.
- **Sample Appears Overly Discolored or Contains Excess Sediment:** If the water contains a small amount of precipitate or background color, it may be tested.

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. |

**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) 781-5508** or contact Public Health in your area:

San Luis Obispo Health Dept.
(805) 781-5508
2191 Johnson Ave
SLO, 93401

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