



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

BACTERIOLOGIC WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Total coliforms/E coli presence-absence test **8040**

1. THE 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 OR GROVER BEACH BEFORE 9:00 A.M. (EXCEPT ON COUNTY HOLIDAYS). WATER SAMPLES MAY BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE LABORATORY AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN 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 24 HOURS CANNOT BE TESTED.**
2. Only sterile containers supplied by an approved water testing laboratory can be used. **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.
3. 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..
4. 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).
5. Cost of testing is posted at <http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab>, payable when the water sample is delivered to any Health Department. Following an unsatisfactory test, a “Recheck” sample will incur the same fee. Any Health Department office can supply you with a laboratory approved water container.
6. Please note on the laboratory requisition if the water test is for FHA, VA, or Cal-Vet Loans.
7. We are unable to test for metals or minerals at this time.

Call 781-5507 if you have any questions or contact the Health Dept. in your area:

Grover Beach Health Dept. (473-7050) 286 S. 16th Street, Grover Beach or Paso Robles Health Dept. (237-3050) 723 Walnut Street, Paso Robles