

EFFEX Analytical Services

Total Coliform Bacteria (Present/Absent) in Drinking Water Sampling Instructions

This information is for drinking water sample collection and maintenance of sample integrity prior to testing. If you have questions about these instructions please call the lab
702-367-1187

IMPORTANT:

Wear clean gloves or wash your hands before and after sampling

Do not place lids on ground, touch inside of containers, or take samples when raining.

1. **SAMPLING SITE:** Choose a site where water can be obtained in a clean environment. (Remove aerators, strainers, hose attachments, & avoid mixing/swivel type faucets and purification devices(unless permitted by regulatory agency))
2. **FLUSH THE SYSTEM:** Clear service line by maintaining a steady water flow for at least 3 minutes(5 minutes if a directly from well) prior to taking sample(or until steady water temperature is achieved). Reduce flow to avoid splashing. An outside spigot should be run for 2-4 hours if well has not been in daily operation & turned off before taking sample.
3. **AVOID CONTAMINATION:** Methods of cleaning site include burning with a flame, use of alcohol or 10% bleach solution, and running hot water for a few minutes before sampling. Actual sample taken should be cold water.
4. **CONTAINER:** Fill the sterile lab container containing $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ to the 100mL fill line(1 inch airspace must be achieved) and cap immediately after sampling. Do NOT rinse sample bottle!
5. **LABELING:** Always record sample information clearly & completely(Date, Time, Sampling Source, etc...) on bottle label and chain of custody. Each person who takes possession of the sample(s) must sign the chain of custody form.
6. **PRESERVATION:** Keep samples cool(<6° degrees) but not frozen and deliver to the lab ASAP(no more than 24hrs after sampling). Must ship overnight if using postal service.

Please plan for delivery of samples Monday through Thursday.
Friday samples will require employee overtime and may result in additional charges

Sampling Information Resource:

University of Nevada, Reno: NV Cooperative Extension & The College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

The Basics of Water Sampling & Monitoring Workshop Aug 22, 2008