

Drinking Water - Bacteriology Testing

Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory
2201 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533 PHONE (707) 784-4410

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WATER BACTERIOLOGY TESTS OFFERED:

1. *Presence-Absence (P/A)* – tests for the presence of total coliforms and *E. coli* in drinking water
2. *Quantitray (Most Probable Number)* – quantifies the total coliforms and *E. coli* in the water sample
3. *Heterotrophic Plate Count* – gives the number of heterotrophic bacteria in the water sample. Is usually done in conjunction with a total coliform P/A test

Call for current pricing or visit the Solano County Public Health Laboratory website for additional information

SAMPLE COLLECTION: Water samples taken for bacteriological testing must be collected and handled properly to ensure reliability of laboratory results. The following procedures will help you in this regard:

1. **Transport samples in a cooler with cold packs or ice. Samples received after 1 hour from collection must be received cold but not frozen (less than 10° Celsius or 50° Fahrenheit). If you are unsure if you will make it to the drop-off location within one hour, consider cooling samples in a refrigerator for a couple of hours prior to delivery. Then place samples in cooler with ice packs for transport to a drop-off location. Regulatory agencies (state, county) WILL NOT accept results for samples outside these conditions.**
2. Collect water sample from an inside cold water, non-swiveling faucet, if possible.
3. Remove any attachments such as aerators, screens, filters or hoses, and run water at full stream for 1 to 2 minutes. For infrequently used water faucets, do the same, but run water for 5 minutes. **THEN REDUCE WATER FLOW.**
4. Break plastic seal on the sterile sample bottle provided and remove the lid, being careful to not contaminate the bottle or lid. Leave the powder in the bottle. **Note: samples submitted in a container other than one provided by the laboratory or water monitoring agency will not be tested.**
5. Carefully fill the bottle up to the neck, above the 100 mL line, leaving a small air space. Testing requires 100 mL of water. **Note: Samples with less than 100 mL will not be tested and will need to be resubmitted .**
6. Carefully replace cap and screw cap on tightly. **Place water bottle into cooler.**
7. Fill out the bottle label and laboratory form. Complete the laboratory form including the sample location (address), sample site, date and time of collection, collector's name, chlorine level (if applicable), water test requested, and any county departments you would like a copy of the results sent. **Be sure to include a contact phone number so we can notify you of a positive result within 24 hours.**
 - a. If this is a regulated non-community water system (NCWS), fill out the "NCWS" section on the laboratory form and indicate that you would like a copy sent to the "State Office".

DELIVERY OF SAMPLES: Samples must be delivered to the lab the same day of collection. Deliver samples cold, and in a cooler, to ensure proper results. Deliver to one of the following locations during times listed below:

Yolo County Environmental Health

292 W Beamer St
Woodland, CA
530-666-8646
(M-F 8:00am to 2:30pm)

Marin Health and Wellness Campus

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA
415-473-4163 (please call upon arrival)
(M-F 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-1:30pm)

Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin-Mendocino Public Health Laboratory

2201 Courage Drive
Fairfield, CA
707-784-4410
(M-F 8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-4:45pm)

Napa County Health and Human Services – Public Health

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Dr
Napa, CA
707-253-4270
(Drop off before 10:00am M-F)

SAMPLE RESULTS: Sample results are normally reported within 24 hours of receipt by the laboratory. Results will be mailed to the submitter (faxed or emailed upon request).

****For private wells, it is advised to wait 14 days after chlorination before water should be resampled for testing.***