

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

**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.

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

1. Collect water sample from an inside cold water faucet, if possible.
2. 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.**
3. 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 that samples submitted in a container other than one provided by the laboratory or water monitoring agency will not be tested.
4. Carefully fill the bottle up to the neck, above the 100 mL line, leaving a small air space. Samples with a volume of less than 100 mL will not be tested and will need to be resubmitted.
5. Carefully replace cap and screw cap on tightly.
6. 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 within **6 hours of collection** and should be delivered **cold** and in a cooler to ensure proper results. Deliver to one of the following locations:

*Yolo County Environmental Health*  
137 N. Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA  
530-666-8646  
(M-F 8:00am to 3:00pm)

*Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin P.H. Laboratory*  
2201 Courage Drive  
Fairfield, CA  
707-784-4410  
(M-F 8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-4:45pm)

*Marin Health & Human Services*  
3260 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA  
415-499-7377  
(M-F 8:00am-2:00pm)

*Napa County Environmental Health*  
2751 Napa Valley Corporate Dr  
Napa, CA  
707-253-4270  
(Drop off before 11 am, M-F)

*Solano County Department of  
Resource Management*  
675 Texas Street, Suite 5500  
Fairfield, CA  
707-784-6765  
(Drop-off between 8-9:00am, M-F)

**SAMPLE RESULTS:** Sample results will be reported within 24 hours and 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.*