

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

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 in order to ensure reliability of laboratory results. The following procedures will help you in this regard:

1. **Before sampling, prepare a cooler with cold packs or ice in zip-lock bags. Samples must be delivered to the lab cold (but not frozen).**
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
415-473-4300
(M-F 8:30am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-1:30pm)

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)

Napa County Environmental
2751 Napa Valley Corporate Dr
Napa, CA
707-253-4270
(Drop off before 10:30am, M, W-F & before 9am, T)

SAMPLE RESULTS: Sample results will be 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.*