

Brelje & Race Laboratories, Inc.

425 South E St., Santa Rosa CA 95404

707-544-8807

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING A BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLE

1. Select a cold water tap as close as possible to the water source or sample from a frequently used faucet within the house. **DO NOT SAMPLE THROUGH A HOSE.**
2. If at all possible, avoid sampling water after it has passed through filters or softeners.
3. Always remove aerators and screens from the tap as these can harbor bacteria and result in a false positive reading.
4. Sterilize the tap with bleach by soaking a paper towel and swabbing both the inside and outside of the tap. If sampling from an outside tap, you may use a propane torch to heat and sterilize the tap.
5. Turn the water on full force and let it run for three to five minutes.
6. Reduce the water flow so that it is a steady stream.
7. Remove and discard the seal on the sterile container. Open the container being careful not to touch the inside of the lid or the inside of the container. Leave the powdery substance or capsule in the sample container as this is a preservative.
8. Fill the container to the 100 ml line. Securely close the container.
9. Place the sample in a cooler with ice or refrigerate. **Never leave the sample in a hot car.**
10. **Return the sample to the lab within 12 hours of collection.**
11. Complete the sample form provided in either blue or black ink. Record your name and complete mailing address (upper left hand corner of form), the sample point and who collected the sample (upper right hand corner of form), and the date and time of the collection (left three lines of the box in the center of the form).
12. We request payment at the time the sample is submitted.