



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023  
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

## SAMPLE COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Bacteriologic (Total Coliforms/*E. coli*) Water Test

8040, 8350

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: Refrigerated 2–8°C (36–46°F), not frozen.

Maximum Holding Time: 30 hours (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory incubator).

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage, or transport, please call lab first to discuss.

#### KIT (BOTTLE) STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature 15–25°C (59–77°F).

Expiration: bottle must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label.

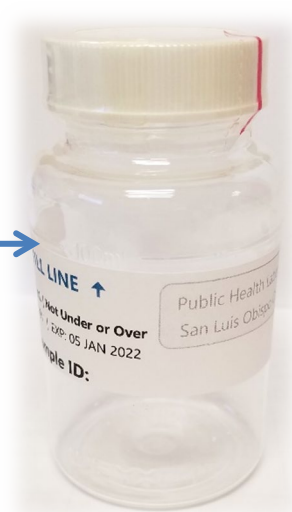
#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Water: 100.0 mL in Idexx Bottle

*Water level must be exactly at fill line or slightly over.*

***A sample even slightly under the line will be rejected.***

Fill Line →



**Idexx Water  
Collection Bottle**

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

8040: Total Coliforms & *E. coli* Bacteria, Presence/Absence

8350: Total Coliforms & *E. coli* Bacteria, undiluted, MPN/enumerated

Other: Call Laboratory to discuss

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- **Holding Time Exceeded**: Holding time greater than 30 hours.
- **No Sample ID on Bottle**: There is nothing written on the bottle.
- **Sample ID Mismatch**: The sample ID on the bottle and form do not match.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient**: Sample volume less than 97.5 mL.
- **Inappropriate Holding Temperature**: Temperature upon arrival is less than 0°C or contains ice.  
Note: recommended storage temperature is refrigerated (2–8°C.)
- **Sample Leaked in Transit**: Container lid not properly threaded.
- **Inappropriate Sample Container**: Sample submitted in container other than those provided by the lab. Note: our containers are assessed to meet the required quality control parameters.
- **Evidence of Excess Chlorination**: Sample smells frankly chlorinated or results in a blue/purple flash upon addition of the Colilert media packet.
- **Sample Appears Overly Discolored or Contains Excess Sediment**: If the water contains a small amount of precipitate or background color, it may be tested.

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

## Bacteriologic (Total Coliforms/*E. coli*) Water Test

8040, 8350

### SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. Use **only sterile containers supplied by this laboratory**. Sample bottles can be picked up and dropped off at any of the three Public Health Department locations below.

	<b>Pick-Up Sample Bottles</b>	<b>Drop-Off Samples</b>
<b>SLO*</b>	M-F 8-5	M-Th** by 3:30 p.m.
<b>Paso*</b>	M-F 8-5	M-Th** by 11:00 a.m.
<b>Grover*</b>	M-Thursday 8-5	M-Th** by 9:00 a.m.

*\*Closed on County holidays*

*\*\*Water samples can be accepted on Fridays on an emergency basis, call Laboratory for approval.*

2. Do not collect samples from a swivel head faucet. When taking water samples, remove the aerator; **flush the lines** by opening the cold water tap and running water for 2 to 3 minutes.
3. Carefully open the bottle — **do not touch the inside** of the bottle or lid.
4. **Do not rinse** out the bottle and **do not touch or dump** out the white powder.
5. Fill the bottle carefully to **the 100 ml line** on the bottle (**DO NOT UNDERFILL** or **OVERFILL**), making sure the powder stays in the bottle. Close the cap tightly.
6. **Fill in all the requested fields** on the laboratory requisition (test request form). For guidance filling out the requisition, see Environmental Testing Requisition Instructions document or contact us. Create a sample ID number and write it on both the bottle and the requisition.
7. Water must begin cooling, to refrigerator temperature, immediately after collection. **Use cooler** with ice packs or equivalent for transport. Do not freeze.
8. Cost of testing is posted at <http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab>, payable when the water sample is delivered to any Public Health Department. If testing shows the drinking water is unsafe to drink, a "Retest" sample will incur the same fee.
9. Please note on the laboratory requisition if the water test is for FHA, VA, or Cal-Vet Loans.

We are unable to test for metals or minerals currently.

For any assistance, call the Laboratory at **(805) 781-5507** or contact a Public Health Department in your area:

San Luis Obispo Health Dept.  
(805) 781-5500  
2191 Johnson Ave  
SLO, 93401

Grover Beach Health Dept.  
(805) 473-7050  
286 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grover Beach, 93433

Paso Robles Health Dept.  
(805) 237-3050  
805 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #201  
Paso Robles, 93446