

PRIVATE DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS

Total Coliform Analysis

Samples that are collected for shipment or delivery to our laboratory are very valuable. We want to ensure the proper handling of those samples as set forth by the various regulations and agencies. Legend Technical Services provides the sample bottles at no charge to assure that the proper bottles are used for the required analyses. If you have any questions, please contact a Client Service Representative at Legend Technical Services. With particular reference to the analysis for Total Coliforms, Legend provides a special sterile sample bottle containing a white powder (chlorine neutralizing agent). **DO NOT empty or rinse these containers before filling them with sample.**

SAMPLING HINTS

The bottle must be filled from a running source. When collecting samples from a tap, remove the aerator, clean the tap thoroughly with isopropyl alcohol or flame the faucet with a lighter and turn on the water and flush for 2 or more minutes. To keep the chance of outside contamination to a minimum, open the bottle immediately before filling. Sterile bottles should be opened carefully. Remove the clear plastic, shrink-wrap seal before opening the cap. Avoid touching the lip of the bottle or inside the cap and do not set the lid down. Adjust the flow to a small steady stream and fill **to just above the 100 mL fill line** on the bottle. The water level must be over the 100 mL line, but just slightly. *If the bottle is under or over filled, we must reject the sample, in accordance with State rules, if the results are to be reported to the State for compliance purposes.*

SAMPLE STORAGE AND SHIPPING PROCEDURES

State rules mandate that samples for Total Coliform be **no more than 30 hours old**. This is measured from the time the sample is taken until it is analyzed in the laboratory. In order to have the necessary time in the lab, we must reject any samples more than 24 hours old. Please allow sufficient time to get the sample to the lab. All sample for Total Coliform analysis must be kept at 4° C (40°F) during shipment or delivery to the laboratory. This can be accomplished with regular ice or "blue" ice in a small cooler. Shipment of the samples to the laboratory is at your expense. You must complete the sample submittal form and return it to the laboratory with your sample.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Your Analytical Report is the form you submitted with the sample. Our microbiologist will prepare the sample for analysis and "read" the results in approximately 24 hours. The result will appear on the report as positive or negative for both Coliform bacteria and *E. coli* (fecal bacteria).

TERMS

Legend Technical Services Inc. provides this testing to the general public at a fee that we try to keep to a minimum. The service includes only the bottles, testing, and the report. We will contact you by phone or e-mail if your test is positive. Telephone consultation and interpretation of results, or faxing of results **is not included**. Consultation is at the rate of \$75.00 per hour. To have a copy of the report mailed or faxed, you must pay a \$5.00 charge in advance for each faxed or mailed copy. The original will be e-mailed to the submitter.

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