



Sampling Drinking Water for Microbiology Analysis

How to Collect Water Sample

1. Obtain a sterile 100 ml water sample bottle from Aemtek.
2. Before taking the water sample remove any aerators, screens, or hoses from tap. Clean tap with alcohol or bleach.
3. Run the cold water for approximately 2 to 3 minutes. Fill the sample bottle to the line shown on the bottle.
4. Fill out the Sample Submission Form that came with the bottle.
5. Securely pack the water sample in a cooler with artificial ice pack to keep the water sample cool during transportation.
6. Return the bottle and Sample Submission Form to Aemtek lab as soon as possible.
7. The sample must be in the Aemtek Laboratory within eight (8) hours from the time it was taken if it is intended for Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) analysis and within 30 hours for Coliforms/*E. coli* analysis.
8. Aemtek sample receiving hours are 9 am – 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Location: 46309 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539.

How to Interpret Your Laboratory Results

For well water:

Total Coliforms:

- This group of bacteria is always present in animal wastes and sewage, but is also found in soil and on vegetation.
- The presence of these bacteria in your well is usually the result of soil run-off or septic tank seepage.

Escherichia coli:

- These bacteria are only found in the stomachs of people and animals.
- The presence of *E. coli* bacteria in your well is usually the result of recent sewage contamination from a nearby source.
- These bacteria are the ones that may cause disease.

For vended water:

Presence of coliforms/*E. coli* is not acceptable.