

Sample Collection for Presence/Absence of Coliform Bacteria in Drinking Water
Samples must be returned within 24 hours of collection.

Collection from faucet:

1. Sample must be collected in an Avocet Environmental Testing bottle.
2. Use an inside faucet. Use faucets that have separate hot and cold handles. Bath fixtures are a good choice. Avoid swivel taps, such as those found at kitchen sinks, as these faucets have a greater chance of harboring bacteria.
3. Remove all attachments from the faucet, including aerators, screens, hoses and/or filters.
4. Turn on **cold water only** and let it run with a steady stream for at least 5 minutes. This water may be saved in a bucket and used later. Before collecting the sample turn the water down so that the stream is about the width of a pencil, then let the water run for one minute. A chlorine residual test can be run at the this time.
5. When you are ready to take the sample hold the bottle near the bottom and unscrew the cap. Avoid touching the edge of the cap, and avoid splashing it as the sample is collected. **Do not touch the inside of the cap or bottle.**
6. Fill the water to the 100mL line, do not allow it to overflow. **Do not rinse the bottle before taking sample.** The bottle contains a small amount of white powder (preservative) that is a necessary chemical for the analysis.
7. Replace the lid as soon as the bottle is filled and removed from the flow. Keep sample in the refrigerator or on ice until it is returned to the lab. **Samples must be returned less than 24 hours old.**

If you must use an outside tap, additional precautions should be taken.

Fill out the lab slip with name, address, phone #, time and date of collection, and public system information if required. Results will be mailed within two to three working days from receipt of sample unless other arrangements are made. Payment for this analysis is required upon receipt of samples unless prior arrangements are made.