



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU

Collecting Bacteriological Water Samples

(Para obtener este documento en español vaya a - <http://www.mtyhd.org/waterforms>)

If possible, collect samples at cold-water faucets that are free of contaminating devices such as screens, aeration devices, hoses, point-of-use devices, or swiveled faucets. If you must use a tap that has a screen or an aeration device, remove these before taking your sample. Do not obtain samples from taps that leak around the valve stem and allow water to flow over the outside of the tap. This leakage could be a significant source of external contamination of the sample. Faucets must be high enough to put the bottle underneath without contacting the mouth of the container with the faucet.

Taking the sample:

1. If there is debris on the tap, scrub the outside and inside with a plastic-bristled brush to loosen any attached debris.
2. Swab or spray the tap with a disinfectant such as bleach and wait for one to two minutes.
3. Open the faucet and thoroughly flush the line for at least two to five minutes. The longer the water runs the better the chance of flushing out bacteria that may be in the building plumbing.
4. Reduce the flow until the water leaving the tap has a continuous, gentle flow without any turbulence or splashing.
5. **Sterile containers provided by your laboratory must be used. Label the sample with the System Name recognized by the County.** Do not rinse the bottle prior to taking the sample. The powder in the bottle is sodium thiosulfate that inactivates any chlorine-based disinfectant. Be sure this substance stays in the bottle.
6. Remove the cap from the sample bottle and keep it in your hand facing down. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the bottle's inner surface as these actions can contaminate the sample.
7. Carefully place the sample bottle under the running water. Fill the bottle just to the fill-line; do not overfill the sample bottle or allow the water to splash.
8. Quickly replace the cap on the bottle and label the sample clearly. If samples cannot be delivered to the lab immediately, place samples in a cooler with cold packs. If ice is used, at no time should the sample container be immersed or submerged in the ice or melted ice water. The sample must be delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours from the time of collection. **The lab is located at:**

1270 Natividad Rd.

Salinas, Ca. 93906

(831) 755-4516

(lower level back entrance to the building)

Alternatively, the sample can be submitted on the same day of collection to one of the following health department offices:

Monterey County Environmental Health

1200 Aguajito Rd.

Monterey, Ca.

(831) 647-7654

Drop off by 9:00 a.m.

Monterey County Environmental Health

620 Broadway St.

King City, CA.

(831) 386-6899

Drop off by 9:00 a.m.