

# Colilert Sampling Instructions



The Colilert Test detects total coliforms and E. coli in water.  
If you have questions regarding your sample collection, please  
call us Monday - Friday from 8 am - 6 pm at (775) 355-0202.

## Colilert Collection Procedure

- 1 Use the sterile bottle provided by the laboratory to collect your sample.**
  - Contains the powder preservative Sodium Thiosulfate. Do not rinse out the powder.
- 2 Select an appropriate location to take the sample. An end-use point is best, such as a kitchen sink or bathroom sink.**

To avoid contamination:

  - Hands should be cleaned. If possible, wear gloves.
  - Remove aerators, screens, or filters.
  - Sterilize the faucet with a flame, such as a lighter.
- 3 Turn on the water on the cold water side. Let the water run for 15 minutes.**
  - Water flow should be at the diameter of a pencil.
  - If the water has not been run in over a month, run the water for 25 minutes before sampling.
- 4 Remove the plastic seal and unscrew the bottle cap. Hold the cap in your clean and/or gloved hand. Do not set it down.**
- 5 Place the bottle under the running water. Fill to just above the 100-mL fill line.**
  - Leave head space (air) in the container.
  - Do not overflow the container or fill past the 120-mL fill line. Bottles containing over 120-mL of sample volume may be rejected or subject to a 100% surcharge.
- 6 Secure the cap on the container.**
- 7 Fill out the bottle's label with water repellent ink. Fill out your Chain of Custody (COC) form.**
- 8 Place the sample in a cooler on ice. Keep away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.**
- 9 Deliver to your local WETLAB within 24 hours.**

Plan ahead: These samples are not accepted on Fridays or the day before a holiday.

## Samples May Be Called Invalid and Rejected If:

- Sample volume is less than 100-mL or if volume is over 120-mL.
- The bottle has no head space (air).
- The sample is frozen.
- Received past 30 hours of collection.
- The sample has confluent growth.
- Residual chlorine concentration is >4 mg/L.

## Deliver Your Samples

Samples must be received by the lab on ice within 24 hours of collection time at a temperature of 2°-6°C (35°-42°F). Fecal bacteria and total coliform bacteria samples are only accepted Monday through Thursday.

These samples will not be accepted on Fridays or the day before a holiday. If sampling during the week of a holiday, please contact your lab prior to sampling.

It is the client's responsibility to ensure shipped samples arrive within 24 hours of collection time or the samples may be rejected.

WETLAB's Courier Service may be able to pick up your sample for an additional fee. For pricing and to coordinate a pickup, please speak with your WETLAB representative.

**Sparks • (775) 355-0202**

475 E. Greg Street, Ste 119  
Sparks, NV 89431

**Elko • (775) 777-9933**

1084 Lamoille Hwy  
Elko, NV 89803

**Las Vegas • (702) 475-8899**

3230 Polaris Ave. #3 & 4  
Las Vegas, NV 89102



Samples must be delivered Monday through Thursday within 24 hours of collection time in a cooler on ice, wet ice or ice packs, at a temperature of 2°-6°C (35°-42°F).