



Humboldt County
Department Of Health & Human Services
Public Health Branch
Public Health Laboratory

Pepper Stockton, Laboratory Director

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Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

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We do NOT accept water samples on Friday.

Water Collection Instructions

Note: We test only for bacterial contamination from soil and feces. We do NOT test for metals and chemicals. Microbac Laboratories offers this type of testing: (707) 822-4649.

If you have concerns or questions about your water system, contact Environmental Health: (707) 445-6215

All Waters*

1. Do not rinse the sample bottle before using. Do not add any substance (such as bleach) to the bottle before taking the water sample. Open the sterile sample bottle and fill the bottle to approximately ¼" **above the 100ml line, but not to the top.** *We need headspace to adequately mix the sample.* Seal the cap tightly.
2. Refrigerate water sample, **do not freeze.** (avoid placing water sample in direct contact with frozen ice packs) Temperature will be verified upon receipt (note: lab recommends using a temperature blank or duplicate sample collected and transported in the exact same way).
3. Sample will be rejected if temperature upon receipt shows evidence of freezing (Temperature $\leq 0.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) or exceeds room temperature (Temperature $> 25.0^{\circ}\text{C}$), *unless the time since sample collection has been less than two hours.*
4. Complete the Chain of Custody using pen (*do not use pencil or white out*) with the following information: agency or your name, sampling point, date and time collected, bottle number, contact phone number and address of where we should send the results.

Drinking (Potable) Water

5. The sample bottle may contain a white powder as a preservative and is ready for your use "as is."
6. Disinfect tap if needed remove any attachments (e.g. filters, aerators, flow directors, or screens) if installed.
7. Run water tap for approximately 2-3 minutes.
8. **Return it to the Laboratory within 24 hours of collection.**

Raw Water Supply

1. When collecting samples directly from a river, stream, lake, reservoir, spring or well, obtain samples representative of the source water. Do not take sample to near the bank or too far from the drawoff point, or at a depth above or below the drawoff point.
2. **Return it to the Laboratory within 6 hours of collection.**

***does not apply to Shellfish or Seawater samples.**