


TAKING A TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA TEST PROPERLY

Many of the water samples which fail a total coliform bacteria test fail because of sampling error, not because the water is actually contaminated. To ensure that this does not happen to you, follow these steps when taking a sample from your water system:

STEP 1




DO NOT RINSE OUT BOTTLE
The liquid in the bottle is meant to be there and will not contaminate your sample.

STEP 5



TURN THE WATER DOWN
so it does not splash. Then fill the bottle only to the shoulder.

STEP 2




REMOVE FAUCET SCREEN
or other hoses or aerators from the end of the faucet.

STEP 6



SCREW ON CAP TIGHTLY
and take special care not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle.

STEP 3




DISINFECT THE FAUCET
by dipping the end in a cap full of bleach before running the water. This is optional but is a good idea.

STEP 7



FILL OUT PAPERWORK
and mail it to the lab with the filled bottle. Keep a copy of the paperwork. See back for an example of a completed sheet.

STEP 4



RUN COLD WATER FOR AT LEAST 5 MINUTES
to ensure that the water you are sampling has not been sitting in the pipes or tanks for a long time.

ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? CALL THE
MAINE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM (207) 287-2070.