

Guidelines for sampling water for microbiological examination

The Animal Health Laboratory is NATA accredited to test for bacteria in water using Australian Standard methods.

It is most important to sample water carefully, taking every precaution to avoid contamination during the sampling procedure.

Note: The Animal Health Laboratory **does not** undertake chemical testing of water.

Refer to <http://analyticalservices.tas.gov.au/>
Phone: 03 6165 3300

SAMPLE SUBMISSION

The Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) accepts water samples for testing as follows:

Potable

Monday to Thursday
9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Pools/Recreational water

Monday to Wednesday
9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Legionella & Heterotrophic Colony Count

Contact the Animal Health Laboratory to discuss your testing schedule.

Water samples are to be collected into sterile sample bottles, containing chlorine neutraliser, as supplied by AHL.

It is most important to collect water samples carefully to avoid contamination.

Please arrange your sampling time to minimise delays in samples reaching AHL.

Water samples should be placed on ice and reach AHL as soon as possible after collection as testing **must be completed** within **24 hours**.

Contact Water Microbiology laboratory staff on **03 67772097** if additional information is required.

SAMPLE CHECKLIST

All samples should be submitted in a sterile bottle provided by AHL. The bottle **must** be labelled and accompanied by a completed Water Microbiology collection form.

Provide **all** following details:

- Full name (title, first name and surname)
- Full street address
- Phone number/email for result reports
- ABN (if company)
- Water source
- Date & time of collection

Note: If no email address is provided/available the report will be sent by mail.

SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS

1. Do not open sample bottle until the moment it is required for filling.
2. When removing cap, hold it at the top making sure that fingers do not come into contact with the neck or the inner surface of the cap. Do not lay the cap down or allow it to touch anything.
3. Do not adjust flow rate during sampling.
4. From the applicable method (**see over**), immediately fill with water, leaving 2.5cm head space.
5. Replace the cap tightly and label bottle clearly.



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Use the collection guidelines appropriate for your water source

TAP SAMPLING

1. Remove external tap fittings such as rubber tubes or hose attachments.
2. Turn tap on full and allow to flow for 2-3 minutes to clear service lines.
3. Adjust flow-rate to gentle stream of water and sample as described above.

RIVER, SPRING, LAKE RESERVOIR OR WELL SAMPLING

1. Sample water away from the bank and near the draw off point.
2. Hold bottle near base and plunge it, neck downwards, below water surface to about 30 cm depth.
3. Turn bottle until neck points slightly upwards with the mouth directed towards the current. If there is no current, move the bottle forward away from your hand. A rigid pole, 1.2 - 2.5m long, with the bottle clamped firmly at one end is useful for collecting samples particularly when there is likely to be damage to the bank.
4. When full, remove from water and immediately replace cap.
5. If unable to collect samples this way attach a weight to the bottle and lower into the water.

HAND PUMP SAMPLING

1. Pump for a few minutes before collecting sample to flush all standing water from the pump.
2. Collect sample directly into bottle.

POOLS (INCLUDES RECREATIONAL, HYDROTHERAPY AND SPAS)

Public Health Guidelines recommend that the pool sample be collected at the point furthest from the water inlets.

1. Hold bottle near base and plunge it, neck downwards, below water surface to about 30-40 cm depth
2. Turn bottle until neck points slightly upwards with the mouth directed upwards. When full, remove from water and immediately replace cap.
3. If you have specific sampling queries please contact AHL.

PRESERVATION AND STORAGE OF SAMPLES

1. Place samples in container surrounded by ice for transport.
2. Arrange for the samples to be delivered to the laboratory as soon as possible. Note: samples need to be tested with 24 hours of collection.

SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples to:

Water Microbiology Laboratory
Animal Health Laboratory
DPIPWE
165 Westbury Road
Prospect TAS 7250

Telephone: 03 6777 2097 or 03 6777 2111

Email: specimenreception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

For more information go to:

<http://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/watermicro>

AHL 165 Westbury Road Prospect TAS 7250
AHL PO Box 46 Kings Meadows TAS 7249
E: specimenreception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au
P: (03) 6777 2111 F: (03) 6344 3085



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