

Instructions for Taking Water Samples

Brief Overview

We will be analyzing and interpreting the results of water samples using the FDA equivalent testing method IDEXX ColiLert-18. You will receive a printed copy of these results for your records.

You can bring one water sample from each water source you use (pre- and post-harvest). Water samples need to be collected no more than 24 hours prior to analysis.

The goal of the sampling is to collect and analyze a representative sample; however, this may require additional tools (e.g., an extendable pole). Do your best to collect a sample that would represent the water that is being used for the activity as close to the source as possible.

- For surface waters (ponds, creeks, rivers, etc), it is preferable to sample the water as close to the pump or distribution system as possible.
- For ground waters, a tap is often the only access point for collecting a sample. Turn on the tap and let the water run for 2 minutes before collecting a sample.

Materials Needed

- 4 oz sterile sampling container (urine cup) or boiled glass jar and lid per sample
 - Urine catch cups are available low-cost at most drug stores
- Permanent marker
- Cooler and ice packs

Water Sampling Instructions

1. Gather materials and take to the water source. **Do not open the container until you are ready to collect the sample.**
 - a. No gloves needed, but please wash your hands before and after sampling.
 - b. There may be material in the urine cup, you don't need to remove it.
2. Using a permanent marker, record the following on each water sample container:
 - a. Sample source
 - b. Sample date and time
3. Carefully open the sample container, fill the container with water (leave a small amount of space), and reclose the container.
 - a. Try not to touch the inside of the container or the inside of the lid with your fingers or other materials (dirt, etc).
4. Place the filled sample container into an ice bucket or cooler. It is important to keep the sample cold, but not frozen.
5. Bring the samples (on ice/in a cooler)