

## SAMPLING FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

### Total coliforms; *E. coli*

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#### Bottle to Use:

Sterile 125 or 150 mL plastic bottles must be used.



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#### Preservatives to Use:

- Sodium Thiosulfate is the powder in the bottle. Do NOT rinse the powder out of the bottle.
  - Cool to < 10 °C (< 50 °F) for source water and groundwater samples (recommended for drinking water as well) but do not allow samples to freeze

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#### Holding Times:

Holding times are generally very short - 30 hours for drinking water samples

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#### Sampling Instructions:

1. Wear gloves when collecting samples.
2. Do not rinse the bottles. The bottles are sterile so care must be taken not to contaminate the bottle or cap.
3. COMPLETELY REMOVE THE PLASTIC CLEAR COVERING AROUND THE LID
4. Prior to collecting, remove the aerator since it may harbor bacteria
5. Prior to collecting in the distribution system place all carbon filters, sediment filters and water softeners on bypass.
6. Flush the spigot for 5-6 minutes
7. Sanitize the spigot with unscented bleach for 2 minutes
8. Flush the spigot for 3-5 minutes
9. Once the distribution line is flushed and the flow reduced, quickly open the bottle (but do not set the cap down)
10. Hold the cap by its outside edges only
11. Fill the sample bottle to just above the 100 mL line leaving a one-inch headspace.
12. Cap the bottle immediately and place it into a cooler with ice for delivery or overnight shipment to the laboratory
13. **Deliver samples to the lab the day of collection if possible or ship via overnight delivery.**
14. BoJhun Environmental Services  
222 S Main Street  
Fostoria, OH 44830  
Phone: 419-436-7066

# ADDITIONAL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

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## Tips and Guidance for Total Coliform and E. coli Sampling Some Tips on Collecting Samples

- Allow water to flow for 5 or 6 minutes before sampling
- Do not rinse or overfill container
- Always collect **cold** water; never sample hot water
- Do not touch the inside of the sample bottle or its cap

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## Avoid These Sampling Sites for Total Coliform, if Possible

- Outdoor faucets
  - Faucets connected to cisterns, softeners, pumps, pressure tanks or hot water heaters
  - New plumbing and fixtures or those repaired recently
  - Faucets that hot and cold water come through
  - Threaded taps
  - Swing spouts
  - Faucets positioned close to sink or ground
  - Leaky faucets
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