



1315 Cherry, Helena, MT 59601

(406)449-6282

## Sampling Instructions

### TOTAL COLIFORM:

1. Use a sterile sample container supplied by a laboratory.  
Keep the bottle tightly capped until you sample.  
Break and remove the seal.  
Do not touch the inside of the bottle or the cap.  
Do not rinse the bottle out before you fill it as the container contains a preservative of Sodium Thiosulfate.
2. Select sample location for results you want to receive.  
If requiring results from the well, collect a sample from a location nearest to the well head.  
Do not collect samples from an outside garden hose.  
Avoid sampling from a mixing type faucet, sinks with separate hot and cold water controls are the best.
3. Disinfect the end of the faucet by cleaning off the inside and outside end of the faucet with rubbing alcohol or bleach.  
If the sample is being taken from a faucet with an aerator screen, remove the screen if possible.  
If the screen cannot be removed clean it off as well as possible or use a different faucet.
4. Allow cold water to flow openly for 2-3 minutes allowing fresh water to run through tap.  
Reduce water flow to a low steady stream.
5. Fill the sealed 100 ml container to the fill line.  
Do not touch the inside of the bottle, lid or water inside of container.  
Immediately cap the container.
6. Make sure you note the date and time sampled. Return to the laboratory within 24 hours from the time sampled. Keep sample cold (not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.

The small, sealed and sanitized bottle (100ml) is for Total Coliform bacteria and E-Coli only. The larger bottle (250ml) is for any further testing that is required. The Drinking Water 101, 151 and 201 require both the 100ml and the 250ml bottles. The 250ml opaque bottle must be filled completely full.

Chain of Custody forms can be printed from our website at [www.alpineanalytical.com](http://www.alpineanalytical.com).

If you have any questions or require more bottles please feel free to contact us at 406-449-6282 or email us at [rae.alpineanalytical@gmail.com](mailto:rae.alpineanalytical@gmail.com) or [chris.alpineanalytical@gmail.com](mailto:chris.alpineanalytical@gmail.com).