

Collection and submission of water samples for bacteriological analysis

General client information

Sample Bottles for Microbiological Analysis of Water

The Agrifood laboratory supplies sampling bottles for the collection of water samples. Sterile sample bottles and sampling bottles containing sodium thiosulphate are provided as a mandatory part of the testing portable water, swimming pools & spa water for microbiology samples. These bottles are always available and can be collected from the laboratory when required.

NOTE: Please only take enough bottles for your immediate sampling requirements. Expiry timeframes apply to sample bottles. Store sample bottles in a clean, dark and dry place

Transport your samples in a clean esky that is only used for the purpose of transporting water samples. Cool the samples with ice bricks and pack the samples securely so they will not be damaged during transport.

NOTE: Never use loose ice to cool water samples. If the samples are submerged in thawed ice they may become contaminated and the results may be unreliable.

NOTE: Do not freeze water samples.

Identification of the water sample collection points

The minimum requirements to identify a sample are: Client, Sampling Point, Date and Time of collection and analysis required. Refer to the "Microbiology Water Sample Submission Form" to be submitted along with the water sample in the lab. It is essential that the water sample collection point is clearly and unambiguously identified. If samples are to be collected from a set sampling point on an ongoing basis please provide a consistent description of the sampling point.

Collection of water samples

Water samples must be collected in accordance with the sample collection instructions from this laboratory. Refer to the "Water Sample Collection Instructions for microbiological testing". Always wash your hands before collecting water samples and handle the sample bottle taking care not to introduce contamination. An air gap of 2-3cm must be left when the bottle is closed.

NOTE: Water samples submitted in dirty or poorly stored bottles will not be accepted.

Sample submission

Samples are required to be submitted within specific holding timeframes for microbiology testing.

It is best if samples are sent so that they arrive at Agrifood laboratory ideally no later than 15:30h from Monday to Thursday and no later than 13:30h on Friday.

Samples must be received to the laboratory within 24hrs from time of collection.

If you have any questions, please contact the laboratory for current requirements. Phone: 03 9742 0555