

MATAGORDA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



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- Food Service & Sanitation
- Animal Control
- Floodplain Management
- Solid Waste Management

WATER SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Thoroughly flush line leading to sampling point.
2. The faucet or water tap should then be flamed with a propane torch, alcohol lamp, or other flaming device for sterilization purposes. If unable to heat, clean faucet with Clorox, alcohol, or detergent and water.
3. After sterilizing, the water should be allowed to run freely for at least three (3) minutes – the longer the better. The rate of flow from the faucet should then be slowed until a steady controlled stream is obtained.
4. Collect the water sample as antiseptically as possible. Be sure to fill the sample bottle to just above the 100ml line but leaving a 1-inch air space at the top of the sample bottle. The lab needs more than 100ml in order to run excessive chlorine residual test on all samples. (see attached example)
5. Fill out the left half of the report in BLACK INK as completely as possible.
6. Samples should arrive at the lab as soon as possible – At least twenty-four (24) hours from the time of collection. Sample(s) should be refrigerated during storage and transit.
7. Water samples should not be collected from faucets which have leaky washers, drinking fountains, vertical pipes, upturned spigots, rubber/garden hoses, kitchen faucets, or other places that cannot be properly sterilized.

Analysis for Coliform Bacteria takes twenty-four-(24) to seventy-two (72) hours. Results can be obtained by calling (979)864-1628 after 3:00 P.M. Monday – Friday. If calling for results please know your sample name. Results will also be mailed to the address on the report form.

Samples received at the Matagorda County Environmental Health Department on the first Wednesday of each month by 9:00 A.M. Matagorda County Environmental Health Department will take the samples to the Brazoria County Lab to be tested for a fee of \$20

Samples Received at the Brazoria County Lab:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Friday 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Samples will not be accepted the day before a holiday. (Including Fridays preceding Monday holidays.)

P-A “Colilert” test (Only takes 24 Hours. for results)

Eliminates unsuitable samples due to excessive silt/bacteria.

Samples will not be accepted after 2:00 P.M. Fridays

Thank You,
Matagorda County Environmental Health