

Analytical Methods, Practical Detection Limits (PDL), Containers Preservation, and Holding Times for Selected Analytes

These bacteria analyses are recommended for drinking water, discharge water, swimming pools and spas. The holding times in the table below are regulatory limits. Standard Methods recommends 6 hours from collection to the start of the analysis.

Chlorinated water must be collected in a container, which contains sodium thiosulfate.

Determination	Std. Methods 19th ed. 1995	PDL	Container
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Drinking Water			
Total coliform: MF	9222B	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass

Total coliform: MTF	9221B	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
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Total coliform: PA	9221D	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
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Fecal coliform: MF	9222D	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
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Fecal coliform: MTF	9221E	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
E. Coli	9222G	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
E. Coli	9223B	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
HPC	9215B	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
BOD-5	5210B	2 mg/L	Plastic/Glass
Surface Water			

Fecal coliform: MF	9222D	0/100mL	Plastic/Glass
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E. Coli	9223B	(B)	<1/100mL
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(A) - 6 hours from collection to the laboratory and 8 hours from collection to incubator, recommended and for regulatory use. 34 hours from collection to incubator for routine monitoring.

(B) - Using IDEXX Colilert Quanti-Tray procedure.

From Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Waste Water, 19th edition, APHA, AWWA, and WEF, Washington, D.C., 1995.

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