BACTERIA IN WATER SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

Hosts of human disease, particularly those of the gastro-intestinal tract are spread through fecal-contaminated water. Since the specific isolation and identification of many of the disease-producing bacteria, parasites, and viruses which may exist in water is time consuming and possibly hazardous, appropriate indicator organisms are used to detect the possible presence of coliforms, fecal streptococci, and enterococci. They were chosen because they are generally present in water containing the pathogens; survive longer in the aquatic environment; are relatively harmless; and are easily grown, isolated, and identified.

Sampling is a critical part of sanitary water testing. Always wash your hands before collecting your sample and handle the container carefully as they are pre-sterilized.

Sampling Procedures:

1. Choose an inside faucet to collect the bacteria sample and remove the faucet aerator.
2. Open the tap fully and let the **COLD** water run for 3-5 minutes to permit clearing of the service line.
3. Remove the plastic seal and open the bottle carefully. Avoid contaminating the mouth of the bottle with your hands or other non-sterile objects, such as the faucet itself. The bottle contains small white powder. Do not rinse the powder from inside the bottle.
4. Reduce the water flow to permit filling the bottle without splashing.
5. Fill the bottle to just above the 100ml line with cold water (you may fill it over this line, but not below it; however, do not fill to the top).
6. Replace cap tightly.
7. Complete the information on the sample label and place the label on top of the cap.
8. Submit the water sample along with the appropriate paper work to Micro Air, Inc. within 24 hours of the sample time. **Samples received after 24 hours will not be accepted.** Samples are only accepted Monday-Thursday. No samples can be accepted on Friday.
9. Place the sample in the refrigerator or on ice during transit/storage time.

Micro Air, Inc.
Water Laboratory
6320 La Pas Trail
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 293-1533
lab@microair.com