

Microbiological Analysis – E coli and Total Coliform

Report Interpretation

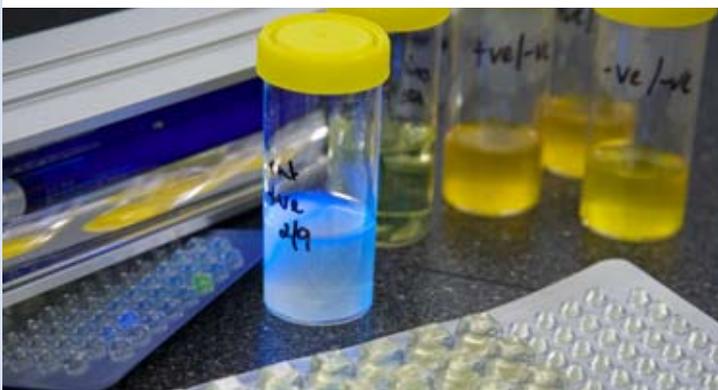
Technical note 2

When you request analyses from our Laboratory, you are sent a written report based on the information given with the sample. This report is sectioned into:

- **Sample Information:** Details about the sample site, who performed the sampling and the date the sample was received in the Lab.
- **Results:** This section contains our database references (Your Reference) a secondary reference and Notes – information provided by you with the sample and, if provided, the date of sample collection.
- **Test Method Information:** The test method used, whether the test is IANZ accredited, or has been subcontracted.
- **End of report:** Statements covering the potential reuse of the report information, the signature of the Key Technical Personnel (KTP), report issue date and accreditation logo.

Important

The result reported applies only to the water quality at the time of sampling. Water quality will vary from day to day and is dependent on factors such as rainfall, land use in the catchment area and other seasonal influences. Regular monitoring of your water quality is recommended.



What do my results mean?

Total Coliform

Bacteria in the family Enterobacteriaceae, Total coliforms are bacteria used to indicate the probable contamination of water by organic material, and that the possibility of faecal contamination needs to be investigated. (This test is done in conjunction with E coli.)

E Coli

Bacteria used as an indicator that faecal contamination of the water has almost certainly occurred, and therefore, there is a possibility that pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria are present.

Is my water safe to drink?

If your E coli result is '<1' (less than one), E coli bacteria were **not detected** in your sample and indicates the water sample complies with the NZ Drinking Water Standard (note 1), and your water is safe to drink.

BUT if your E coli result is given as a number (or >2419.6 or >200.5), this indicates that E coli bacteria were detected in your water sample and the water is not safe for human consumption without further treatment.

Total Coliform bacteria are not specified in NZDW Std, this result gives supporting information on the general quality of your water supply. (See 'Total Coliform' above)

Note 1 - New Zealand Drinking Water Standard

Standards for Water Quality set and compiled by the Ministry of Health. These standards list the criteria applicable to all drinking waters and are used as the basis for grading the quality of community drinking water supplies. The standard is usually only applicable to treated drinking waters. If your water supply is used for public consumption or for saleable food preparation, your supply must comply with the NZ Drinking Water Standard – which specifies 'E coli must not be detected in 100mL of sample'.