



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Environmental

Test Name: Multiple Tube Fermentation

Test Includes: Detection of coliform bacteria in water and soil samples.	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: Tuesday through Friday	Contact Number: 650-573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Multiple tube fermentation with confirmation	
Turnaround Time: 2-4 working days	Reference Range: Total coliforms <1,000/ml; fecal coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> <200/ml
Limitations: No Thursday or Friday deliveries. Specimen must be delivered to lab in <6 hours.	Interpretation: Sample type dependent
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection:	Sample Type: Water or soil
Volume/Amount Required: 50-100 ml water or 50-100 grams soil	Preferred Specimen:
Collection/Preservation: N/A	Storage Instructions: 2-4° C
Causes for Rejection: Too long in transit or not refrigerated	Sample Container: Approved 120 ml sample bottle
Sample Test Kit:	Availability: Monday-Wednesday (other days for emergencies only)
Test Information: Detection Limits: Total coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> 20-24,000/ml standard dilution; different dilutions can be requested.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form: Environmental Test Request	Specimen Handling:
Transport Temperature: <10°C with freezer pack	Shipping Requirements:
<i>Billing</i>	
Effective Date: July 1, 2008	Fees: \$35.00