



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

**Section: Environmental**

**Test Name: Turbidity**

<b>Test Includes:</b> Turbidity reported in nephelometric units	
<b><i>Reporting</i></b>	
<b>Results Available:</b> Tuesday through Friday	<b>Contact Number:</b> 650-573-2500
<b><i>Reference</i></b>	
<b>Method:</b> Nephelometric method	
<b>Turnaround Time:</b> 1-2 days	<b>Reference Range:</b> <5 NTU for drinking water; none for environmental samples.
<b>Limitations:</b> Delivery within 4 hours of collection. No weekend testing of routine samples.	<b>Interpretation:</b> ≥5 NTU is above TLV for drinking water; Other waters have no TLV.
<b><i>Specimen Requirements</i></b>	
<b>Specimen Collection:</b> Lab provided bottles	<b>Sample Type:</b> Any water sample
<b>Volume/Amount Required:</b> Minimum 500 ml	<b>Preferred Specimen:</b>
<b>Collection/Preservation:</b> N/A	<b>Storage Instructions:</b> 2-4° C
<b>Causes for Rejection:</b> Too long in transit. Not in proper container.	<b>Sample Container:</b> 500 ml air-tight bottle.
<b>Sample Test Kit:</b>	<b>Availability:</b> Monday – Thursday for routine samples, other days for emergencies only.
<b>Test Information:</b> Turbidity will be reported as N.T.Us. Drinking water samples ≥5 NTU will be reported immediately by phone.	
<b><i>Specimen Submission</i></b>	
<b>Request Form:</b> Environmental Test Request	<b>Specimen Handling:</b>
<b>Transport Temperature:</b> <10° C	<b>Shipping Requirements:</b>
<b><i>Billing</i></b>	
<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2008	<b>Fees:</b> \$15.45