

# WATER ✓CHECK BACTERIA

Not for use by children without adult supervision.

For additional information on water testing and water quality issues, go to these helpful websites:

## World Health Organization

[www.who.int/topics/drinking\\_water/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/drinking_water/en/)

## Taumata Arowai

[www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/](http://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/)

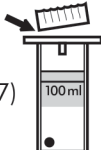
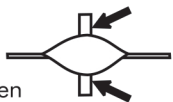
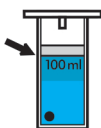

## Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand

[www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0168/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0168/latest/whole.html)

## Total Coliform Bacteria Test

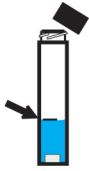



### STEP 1: Dechlorination of Water Samples

Water samples containing chlorine (like tap water) tend to suppress the growth of coliform bacteria when used with this test. A sterile Water Sampling Bag containing a dechlorinating agent is provided to collect the sample and neutralize any chlorine which may be present. This treatment is only necessary for water samples that may contain chlorine.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Tear off top of Water Sampling Bag (2-2197) at the scored line.</p>	 <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Pull the tabs outward to open the bag.</p> 
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Fill the bag to the 100 mL fill line with the sample water.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Pull wire ends to close the bag.</p> 
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Hold tape wire and whirl the bag for 3 complete revolutions. Shake the bag to dissolve the tablet.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Unwhirl bag and pull tabs open. Fold one tape wire inward to form a pouring spout.</p> 

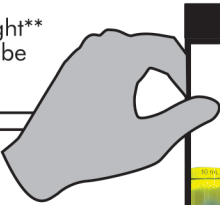

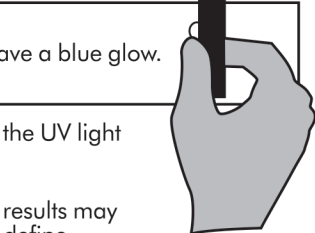
## STEP 2: Test Procedure

Run the test as a quick screening test to determine if coliform bacteria are present in numbers greater or less than 20 colonies per 100 mL of water.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Fill the glass tube that contains a tablet (4890) to the 10 mL line with sample water from Step 1.</p> <p>Replace the cap.</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Stand the tube upright with the tablet flat on the bottom of the tube.</p> 
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Incubate the tube upright at room temperature for 48 hours. Store out of direct sunlight.</p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Compare the contents of the tube to the Coliform Bacteria Colour Chart. If positive, test for <i>E. coli</i>.</p> 

## STEP 3: *E. coli* Fluorescence Test

If Total Coliform test is positive:

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>In a darkened room, hold the UV Light** (31633) against the bottom of the tube (as shown).</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Press the button on the UV Light** to shine the beam through the sample.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>If <i>E. coli</i> is present, the sample will have a blue glow.</p>	

**\*\*WARNING:** Do not stare directly into the UV light source.

Note: Samples with positive screening results may require additional laboratory testing to define specific health risks.

### Coliform Test Disposal

Remove cap. Add 1 mL (1/3 tsp) of household chlorine bleach. Immediately recap. Stand tube upright for 4 hours. Dispose of closed tube in trash. **Do not open tube.**



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