

Taking Bacteriological samples from Swimming Pools

Sample bottles are obtainable from the Laboratory. The bottles supplied are sterile. The liquid in the bottle is a preservative and must not be emptied out.

Check that

- the seal on the cap of the bacteriological sample bottle is not broken
- that the bottle is not damaged
- that it has not passed its expiry date.

If in doubt, contact the laboratory.

Procedure

Hold the base of the bottle vertically (with the cap upwards) in the fingertips of one hand and with the fingertips of the other hand unscrew the cap of the bottle, breaking the seal. Do not touch the top of bottle or the inside of the cap. Keep hold of the cap, keeping it with the open end downwards. Do not put the cap down.

Holding the bottle firmly at an angle of about 45 degrees with the mouth upwards, rapidly submerge it (as the surface water will not be representative of the bulk) until the mouth is at a depth of about 20 to 30 cm below the surface as far out into the pool as you can safely reach. When the bottle is full, remove it from the water, and using the fingertips only, replace the cap firmly.

If you are taking more than one sample, label the sample bottles unambiguously, so that they cannot be confused. Please supply a separate list of samples with details of sources and sampling times.

Return the bottle or bottles to the Laboratory as soon as possible and certainly within 2 hours of taking the sample or samples.

Swimming pool samples will be accepted by the laboratory Mon-Wed, before 12pm. Notice should be given.

04/07/17