

Garden State Laboratories, Inc.

Bacteriological and Chemical Testing



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Main Lab
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NJDEP Lab Cert. #20044

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Collecting Your Own Samples

- 1) Sanitize your storage and transportation equipment using diluted bleach solution before collecting any bacteria samples.
- 2) Before each sample is collected, sanitize your hands using an alcohol hand sanitizer (Ex. Purell).
- 3) Hold your “thio bottle” with your pinky and ring fingers on the **bottom** of the bottle, making sure to keep your hand away from the mouth of the bottle.
- 4) Only unseal your bottle immediately prior to collecting your sample. Do not touch the inside of the bottle or inside of the cap after opening the bottle.
- 5) Hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle with the mouth pointed down towards the water.
- 6) Collect the sample using a forward sweeping motion down to a depth of approximately 18 inches (The sampler’s elbow).
- 7) The thio bottle should be filled to above the 100ml measurement line. Close the bottle after you have collected the sample.
- 8) Apply a label to the bottle with the source identification, date and time of the sample. Make sure the bottle is clearly labeled “Pool” or “Whirlpool.”
 - 8a) Whirlpool, spa, and hot tub samples should be marked with a **red dot** on the top of the bottle.
- 9) After you have completed the bacteria sample collection, perform a pH and disinfectant (Free Chlorine or Bromine) analysis of the pool water.
- 10) Fill out a “Sampling Form” with the date, time of sample collection, and pH & disinfectant results.
- 11) Place the collected sample in a cooler with ice packs for transportation. Do not freeze the samples.
- 12) Samples must be received at the laboratory within six hours after the sample was collected.
 - 12a) Samples delivered to the Sparta Office must be received before 2:00PM. We recommend against sampling before 11:00AM due to the transportation time from Sparta to the Hillside laboratory.