

Colilert[®]-18 Fecal Coliform Protocol Addendum

Follow the procedures in this protocol addendum when using Colilert-18 to test for fecal coliforms in wastewater. Please refer to the printed package insert for kit storage requirements or when using Colilert-18 to test for total coliforms/*E. coli*.

Quanti-Tray[®] Enumeration Procedure

1. Add contents of one snap pack to a 100 mL room temperature water sample in a sterile vessel.
2. Cap vessel and shake until dissolved.
3. Pour sample/reagent mixture into a Quanti-Tray or Quanti-Tray/2000 and seal in an IDEXX Quanti-Tray Sealer.
4. Place the sealed tray in a 44.5°C ±0.2°C incubator for 18 hours (prewarming to 35°C is not required). For incubation in a water bath, submerge the Quanti-Tray, as is, below the water level using a weighted ring.
5. Read results according to the Result Interpretation table below. Count the number of positive wells and refer to the MPN table provided with the Quanti-Tray to obtain a Most Probable Number.

Result Interpretation

Appearance	Result
Less yellow than the comparator ¹ when incubated at 44.5°C ±0.2°C	Negative for fecal coliforms
Yellow equal to or greater than the comparator when incubated at 44.5°C ±0.2°C	Positive for fecal coliforms

- Colilert-18 results are definitive at 18–22 hours. In addition, positives for fecal coliforms observed before 18 hours and negatives observed after 22 hours are also valid.

Quality Control Procedures

The following quality control procedure is recommended for each lot of Colilert-18 when used for fecal coliform testing at 44.5°C ±0.2°C:

1. Fill two sterile vessels with 100 mL sterile water and inoculate one with a fecal coliform (*E. coli*) and one with a non-fecal coliform (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) using the following recommended strains:
 - A sterile loop of ATCC² strains, *E. coli* ATCC 25922 or 11775 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 10145 or 27853
2. Follow the Quanti-Tray Enumeration Procedure above.
3. Results should match the Result Interpretation table above.

For IDEXX Technical Support, please call:

North/South America: 207-556-4496/1-800-321-0207



1. IDEXX P/A Comparator, catalog # WP104, Quanti-Tray Comparator # WQTC, or Quanti-Tray/2000 Comparator # WQT2KC
2. American Type Culture Collection 1-800-638-6597

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Manufactured under one or more of the following U.S. patents: 4,925,789; 5,518,892; 5,610,029, 865; 5,620,895; 5,753,456 and 5,780,259. Other U.S. and/or foreign patents issued or pending.

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