

Environmental Monitoring: Water Sterility Testing

Many facilities sterilize their animals' drinking water because transgenic and immune suppressed animals often need the cleanest water possible. Unlike supply water, which is expected to have a certain amount of bioburden associated with it, sterilized water should be free of any bacterial contaminants. To guard against contamination, Charles River provides sterility testing to screen sterile drinking water for your colonies. For facility specific recommendations, please contact us.

We provide:

- Submission forms
- 500 mL bottles for samples (two per sample site)
- Cold packs (please freeze)
- Shipping container to return samples

NOTE: Samples must be received and tested within 24 hours from the time of collection. Same day or next morning shipping to our Wilmington, MA facility is required for water testing.

Sample Collection Procedure

Label all containers with the sample identification, date and time of collection.

Two 500 mL samples are needed for each collection location. If possible, samples should be collected in a biological safety cabinet using aseptic techniques. Fill both sample bottles up to the 500 mL demarcation.

Two sterile water bags are an appropriate substitute for the two 500 mL bottles. Samples should not exceed a total of 1000 mL. Charles River does not supply sterile water bags.

When finished collecting the samples, recap the sample bottles. It is also recommended that parafilm be wrapped around the cap for an extra layer of leak protection.

Send the water samples on frozen cold packs in the shipping container provided. Please include the completed submission form.

Send samples and submission forms in the shipping crates provided, with frozen cold packs, to:

Charles River
Attn: Microbiology Laboratory
251 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Please contact us at 1.877.CRIVER1 (1.877.274.8371) or askcharlesriver@crl.com with any questions regarding sample submission.