

Instructions for sampling of drinking water, process water, and ice

Sýni sells/rents out sterilised, ready-to-use sample containers for both water (500 ml) and ice (1 L). We recommend specifying with the testing laboratory whether the vials are to be used for water or ice samples.

If needed, Sýni provides customers with further information on the sampling process.

General guidelines

Sampling vials should not be kept for longer than approximately 6 months from sterilisation. Sample containers must be sterilised and closed until sampling begins. Wash your hands and disinfect them if possible.

If a sample is taken where water is chlorinated (e.g. bath water), the sample bottle should contain a chlorine binder. It is important to inform the testing laboratory before collecting sampling equipment if sampling bottles with chlorine binder are required.

Avoid touching the lid on the inside or the edges of the container once the sample container has been opened. Always hold the bottom of the container while filling it. Any draft should be avoided at the sampling site.

The sample should ideally be tested within 24 hours. The date and time of sampling shall be recorded on a label on the sampling container and on the request form.

Sampling of drinking and process water, site of operation

Water amount in a sample for a classic microbiological analysis cf. Act No. 536/2001 on Drinking Water, needs to be **at least 400 ml**. Larger water samples may be needed for more extensive microbiological analysis.

Samples are to be taken directly from the tap or hose without disinfection.

- Turn on the tap fully and let the water run for approximately 2 minutes to eliminate water that has been sitting in the pipes and to gain a stable water temperature.
- Turn down the water pressure to avoid spillage from the container when it is filled.
- Do not fill the container completely to avoid contamination during sampling or opening of the container in the testing lab.
 - We recommend keeping approximately 2cm from the water surface to the edge of the vial.
- Close the vial tightly and prepare for shipment to the testing lab.

Sampling of ice, site of operation:

Generally, the same principles apply as for drinking water and process water.

- Sterilised container or bag can be used equally when sampling.
- Amount of ice in a sample for a classic microbiological analysis needs to be **at least 400 g**.
- Ice shall be sampled in several places if it is taken from a tub or an ice machine.

Sample preparation and cooling

The vials need to be **thoroughly closed and labelled**.

Once you have taken the sample, it is necessary to **keep the sample chilled (2-8°C)** while transporting it to the laboratory. If ice is used to chill during transport, it may not come into direct contact with the container, to avoid contamination. **Water samples must not freeze.**

The sample must be delivered to the testing laboratory as soon as possible after being taken, and **always within 24 hours**.

Detailed information, on the sample, must accompany the sample and a request form for analyses must be filled out. The form can be found on the Sýni website: **Analysis request - water**.

Necessary information (apart from information on analyses):

- Date of sampling.
- Time of sampling.
- Type of water source (if applicable.)
- Location of sampling (e.g. where the tap/ice machine is located in the building, faucet number, etc.)
- Treatment of sample, if any (e.g. chlorinated.)

We recommend notifying the relevant testing laboratory of the incoming sample by sending the request form by email.

- Kópavogur: profanir@syni.is
- Akureyri: akureyri@syni.is

References

Drinking Water Act No. 536/2001, as amended.

Sources

Working manual for microbiological testing of food and drinking water.