

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\STER\09\v01	Page 1 of 1
Section: Sterility Testing Manual	Subject Title: Distilled/De-ionised Water Sterility	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: July 17, 2001	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date:	

DISTILLED/DE-IONISED WATER STERILITY

I. Introduction

Distilled or de-ionised water samples are submitted for colony count to check for suitability as reagent water in clinical laboratories.

II. Specimen Collection and Transport

1. Open the water tap fully and allow the water to run for a minimum of 1 minute before sampling.
2. Collect a minimum of 10 mL of water into a sterile container large enough to hold the entire sample with ample of air space to allow for mixing. Avoid any splashing.

III. Processing of Specimens

1. Process sample within one hour of sampling or refrigerate up to 6 hours.
2. Vortex sample for 10 seconds.
3. Inoculate 1 mL of sample onto a BHI Agar plate and spread the inoculum over the entire agar surface.
4. Incubate the BHI plate at 35°C x 24 hrs
5. Remove the plate from the incubator and incubate the plate at room temperate for an additional 24 hours.
6. Count and record the number of colonies on the entire agar surface.

IV. Reporting

Negative Report: "No Growth"

Positive Report: Report the number of colonies recorded as "x CFU/mL"