

Testing Dental Unit Waterlines



The CDC recommends dental treatment water that meets the current EPA drinking water standards of ≤ 500 CFU/ml.



Results Interpretation Chart

PINK Clean water < 500 CFU/ml 	PURPLE Contaminated water 500 – 2000 CFU/ml 	CLEAR Highly Contaminated water > 2000 CFU/ml
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How Often

ADS (Association for Dental Safety) recommends to test monthly until the water quality is acceptable (meeting EPA drinking water standards) for two consecutive cycles. After two passing cycles, the frequency of testing can be reduced to quarterly.



When

Test water at the beginning of the day after the waterlines have been flushed, and handpieces, air/water syringes and scalers have been reattached.



How

Best practice is to use one vial per waterline, per treatment room, because a pooled sample (testing water from multiple lines) won't allow identification of the specific line that is contaminated in case the CFU count exceeds the recommend level of ≤ 500 CFU/ml.



FAIL Water Test Results (≥ 500 CFU/ml)

If the water test produces a failed result, perform a shock treatment, and retest the line.

TESTING FREQUENCY LOG

TESTING DENTAL UNIT WATERLINES					
Vial/ Sample	Room/ Operatory#	Device (A/W Syringe, Handpiece, Scaler) or Source Water	Date	Results (Pink/Purple/ Clear)	Testing Completed By
#1					
#2					
#4					
#5					
#6					
#7					
#8					
#9					
#10					
#3					
#11					
#12					
#13					
#14					
#15					