

Cryptosporidium & Giardia

Cross Contamination Elimination Advice

Cross contamination is a common problem in *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* testing. A spillage of *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* in the laboratory can cross contaminate many samples. *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* maintain their ability to stain with the detection antibodies for many years even when dried.

BTF strongly recommends not to work with or store suspensions of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* that contain greater than 10,000 *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* per ml, in the same laboratory that is being used for testing water samples. Do not use the same laboratory equipment (including pipettes) for handling these suspensions. If possible don't bring these suspensions into the laboratory. EasySeed™, ColorSeed™, EasyPC™ and the positive control in the EasyStain™ are the only *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* that you should bring into your laboratory.

Some environmental samples such as raw sewage samples or effluents from animal housing or processing plants can contain very high numbers of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. Handle these samples very carefully. Decontaminate all equipment and surfaces thoroughly using approved decontamination reagents.

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