



# Total Coliform and *E. coli* from Cisterns Water

September 26 and 27, 2024

**Total Coliforms** are a group of related bacteria that are (with few exceptions) not harmful to humans. A variety of bacteria, parasites, and viruses, known as pathogens, can potentially cause health problems if humans ingest them. EPA considers **total coliforms** a useful indicator of other pathogens for drinking water. **Total Coliforms** are used to determine the adequacy of water treatment and the integrity of the distribution system.

**E. coli (Escherichia coli)** is a type of bacteria that lives in the intestines of people and animals. **E. coli** is commonly found in human and animal feces. Most strains of **E. coli** are harmless, but some can make people sick.

Location	Number of Cisterns Tested	Total Coliform Detected	E. Coli Detected
Cane	3	3	2
Frederiksted	1	0	0
Glynn	1	1	0
La Grande Princese	1	0	0
La Reine	1	0	0
Mary's Fancy	1	1	0
Mon Bijou	1	1	0
Mount Pleasant	1	0	0
Mount Washington East	2	2	1
Northhall	1	1	1
Rattan	1	0	0
Sion Hill	1	0	0
St. George	1	1	0
Strawberry	1	1	0
Two Brothers	1	1	1
Upper Love	2	0	0
White Bay	1	0	0

Number of Cisterns Sampled: 21  
Number of Total Coliform Detected: 12 (57%)  
Number of E. coli Detected: 5 (24%)

Here's more information ([EPA and DPNR: Your Health and Cisterns - USVI Comprehensive Guide for Cisterns](#)) on what to do to address if Total Coliform and E. Coli is found in your water.

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