

Quick Tests (Color Change), Comparisons with the BART testers



There are a range of fast microbiological tests that claim to detect the numbers of bacteria in a semi-quantitative manner (e.g., a lot, a few, and none). Such tests usually involve filtering the sample in order to trap the microbial cells that are then stained by some colored chemical reagent that reacts to these cells. The more cells present on the filter then the more intense the color. The problem with these techniques is that filtration means concentrating all of the organics (live and dead) onto the filter. The reagent may become reactive to the dead organic matter and signal a falsely high color reaction beyond the actual number of active cells present. While these tests are fast they lack the precision of the BART tester. Some BART testers such as the HAB-BART™ tester can react within a matter of 3,000 to 5,000 seconds when there are very large active populations of bacteria present (such as in primary influent to a sanitary waste water treatment plant) and can be reproducible. BART testers are quick tests too when there is a very large and active bacterial population in the sample.