

CONTAINERS, PRESERVATIVES AND HOLD TIMES



DRINKING WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION

Analysis	Holding Time	Bottle Type	Preservative
Microbiology			
Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, E. Coli	24 hours	125 mL Plastic	Sodium Thiosulfate, Cool, 4°C
Inorganic Chemicals			
Lead and Copper	6 months	1 Liter Plastic	1:1 Nitric Acid
Metals/Hardness as CaCO ₃	6 months, mercury 28 days	1 Liter Plastic	1:1 Nitric Acid
Asbestos	48 hours	1 Liter Plastic	Unpreserved, Cool, 4°C
Radiochemistry	6 months	1 Gallon Cubetainer	Unpreserved
Alkalinity (total)	14 days	250 mL Plastic	Unpreserved, Cool, 4°C
Disinfection Byproducts: Br, ClO ₂ , BrO ₃ , ClO ₃	Varies 14-28 days	250 mL Amber Glass	EDA (Ethylenediamine), Cool, 4°C
Br, Cl, F, NO ₃ , NO ₂ , ortho-Phosphate., SO ₄ , ClO ₄ , Color, Conductivity, TDS, Turbidity	Varies 48 hours-28 days	1 Liter Plastic	Unpreserved, Cool, 4°C
Foaming Agents	48 hours	1 Liter Plastic	Unpreserved, Cool, 4°C
NH ₃ , NO ₃ /NO ₂ , TOC	28 days	1 Liter Plastic	9N Sulfuric Acid, Cool, 4°C
Cyanide	14 days	1 Liter Plastic	Ascorbic Acid, 10N Sodium Hydroxide, Cool, 4°C
Synthetic Organic Chemicals			
EDB/DBCP/TCP by EPA Method 504.1	14 days	40 mL VOA Vial	Sodium Thiosulfate, Cool, 4°C, No headspace
Chlorinated Pesticides by EPA Method 508.1	14 days	1 Liter Amber Glass	Sodium Sulfite in bottle and 6N Hydrochloric Acid in separate vial to be added after sampling. Cool, 4°C
Chlorinated Acids by EPA Method 515.4	14 days	250 mL Amber Glass	Sodium Sulfite, Cool, <6°C
Semivolatle Organics by EPA Method 525.2	14 days	1 Liter Amber Glass	Sodium Sulfite in bottle and Hydrochloric Acid in separate vial to be added after sampling. Cool, 4°C
Cyanazine by EPA Method 525.2	14 days	1 Liter Amber Glass	Unpreserved, Cool, 4°C
Atraton, Prometon, Ametryn, Simetryn, and Prometryn by EPA Method 525.2	14 days	1 Liter Amber Glass	Sodium Sulfite, Cool, 4°C
Carbamates by EPA Method 531.1	28 days	40 mL Amber VOA Vial	Sodium Thiosulfate and Monochloroacetic Acid, Cool, 4°C
Glyphosate by EPA Method 547	14 days	125 mL Amber Glass	Sodium Thiosulfate, Cool, 4°C
Endothall by EPA Method 548.1	7 days	1 Liter Amber Glass	No preservative, Cool, 4°C
Diquat and Paraquat by EPA Method 549.2	7 days	1 Liter Amber High-Density Polyethylene	Sodium Thiosulfate, Cool, 4°C
Haloacetic Acids and Dalapon by EPA Method 552.2	14 days	250 mL Amber Glass	Ammonium Chloride crystals, Cool, 4°C
Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) by EPA Method 1613B	1 year	1 Liter Amber Glass	Sodium Thiosulfate, Cool, 4°C
Volatile Organic Chemicals			
Volatile Organic Compounds by EPA Method 524.2	14 days	3-40 mL VOA Vials	Ascorbic Acid in bottle and 0.5 mL 6N Hydrochloric Acid in separate vial to be added after sampling. Cool, 4°C
Trihalomethanes (only) by EPA Method 524.2	14 days	3-40 mL VOA Vials	Sodium Thiosulfate crystals, Cool, 4°C

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