

Overview

The complexity in sampling for these types of constituents lies in the wide range of bottles and preservative combinations necessary to comprehensively test of all regulated parameters. With a few exceptions, samples for these constituents are collected in plastic containers of varying size and with a variety of different chemical preservatives. The preservatives all have the same purpose and that is to maintain the integrity of the sample to the conditions at the time of sampling. The mechanism of preservation varies by the chemical additive but the overall result is the same.

Sample Containers

250mL - 1L Unpreserved Plastic (White Cap), Foil Wrapped for Asbestos if required
250mL Sulfuric Acid Preserved Plastic (Yellow Cap)
250mL Sodium Hydroxide Preserved Plastic (Green Cap)
250mL Borate-Carbonate Preserved Plastic (Blue Cap)
250mL EDA Preserved Amber Glass
500mL Unpreserved Amber Glass
40mL Phosphoric Acid Preserved Clear Glass VOA Vial (Salmon Label)

Sample Collection Procedures

1. Remove any attachments on sampling port where applicable (i.e. aerators, hoses, backflow prevention devices if possible).
2. Ensure surrounding area is clear, free of debris, protected from wind and rain.
3. Flush system for 5-10 minutes to clear standing water.
4. Reduce flow to a small stream, gentle enough to avoid splashing and overflowing of container.
5. Uncap sample container, ensuring cap remains pointed down or is otherwise protected.
6. Do NOT rinse the bottle prior to sampling. Any liquids or solids found inside are the added preservatives and must remain in the container.
7. Fill the bottle up to the neck of the container but do not overflow.
8. Immediately cap the container.
9. Keep samples cool (<6°C or 43°F, not frozen) and deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible.