



Water Sample Container Guide

Organics

Description	Method	Container	Preservative	Holding Time
Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds	8270D	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
PCB Aroclors	EPA 608, 8082	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)	8270D, 8270D-SIM	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
Pesticides	8081B	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
Explosives	8330A	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
Perchlorate	6850	250 mL Plastic requires headspace	4° C	28 days
Volatile Organic Compounds	8260C	(3) 40 mL voa vial	HCl, 4° C 4° C	14 days 7 Days
Dissolved Gases	RSKSOP-175	(2) 40 mL voa vial	HCl, 4° C	14 days
TPH-DRO	8015C	(2) 1 L Amber Glass	4° C	7 days (extraction)
TPH-GRO	8015C	(2) 40 mL voa vial	HCl, 4° C	14 days
TPH- Oil and Grease	EPA 1664A	1 Liter glass	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days

Metals

Description	Method	Container	Preservative	Holding Time
Metals	200.7, 200.8, 6010C, 6020A	250 mL plastic	HNO ₃ , 4° C	180 days
Mercury	7470A	250 mL plastic	HNO ₃ , 4° C	28 days
Low Level Mercury	1631E	500 mL glass	4° C	90 days once preserved

Inorganics

Description	Method	Container	Preservative	Holding Time
Alkalinity	SM2320B	250 mL plastic	4° C	14 days
Ammonia	SM4500NH3	250 mL plastic	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	SM5210B	250 mL plastic	4° C	48 hours
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	EPA410.4	250 mL amber glass	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Chloride	EPA300.0	120 mL plastic	4° C	28 days
Cyanide- Amendable	SM4500-CN-G	120 mL amber glass	NaOH, 4° C	14 days
Cyanide- Available	ASTM-D6888	120 mL amber glass	NaOH, 4° C	14 days
Cyanide-Total	SM4500-CN-E	250 mL plastic	NaOH, 4° C	14 days
Dissolved Oxygen	SM4500-O-G	120 mL plastic	4° C	ASAP
Fluoride	EPA300.0	120 mL plastic	4° C	28 days
MBAS	SM5540C	250 mL amber glass	4° C	48 hours
Nitrate/Nitrite	EPA300.0	120 mL plastic	4° C	48 hours
TKN	SM4500-NorgB	250 mL plastic	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Orthophosphate	SM4500P-E	250 mL plastic	4° C	48 hours

pH	SM4500-H	120 mL plastic	4° C	ASAP
Phosphorous	SM4500P-E	120 mL plastic	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	SM2540D	500 mL plastic	4° C	7 days
Specific Conductance	SM2510B	120 mL plastic	4° C	28 days
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	SM5310C	250 mL amber glass	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Total Phenols	EPA420.1	500 mL amber glass	H ₂ SO ₄ , 4° C	28 days
Turbidity	SM2130B	250 mL plastic	4° C	48 hours

Microbiological

Description	Method	Container	Preservative	Holding Time
Fecal Coliform	SM9222D	100 mL sterile plastic	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ , 4° C	6-8 hours
Total Coliform	SM9222B	100 mL sterile plastic	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ , 4° C	6-8 hours
Heterotrophic Plate Count	SM9215B	100 mL sterile plastic	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ , 4° C	6-8 hours
E-coli	EPA1103.1	100 mL sterile plastic	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ , 4° C	6-8 hours
Coliform P/A	SM_9223B	100 mL sterile plastic	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ , 4° C	30 hours