



DRAGON ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

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DRAGON SAMPLE PRESERVATION AND HOLDING TIMES GUIDE

Analysis	Container	Minimum Sample Size	Preservation	Holding Time
Acidity	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	Cool to <4°C	14 days
Alkalinity	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	Cool to <4°C	14 days
BOD/CBOD	HDPE or Glass	1000 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
COD	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	pH < 2 with H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Color	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
Diesel Range Organics	Glass	400 mL, 100 g	pH < 2 with HCl, cool to <4°C	7 days water/14 days soil
Gasoline Range Organics	Glass	3-40 mL VOAs, 100 g	pH < 2 with HCl, cool to <4°C	14 days
Hardness, Total	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	pH < 2 with HNO ₃ or H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	6 months
Metals, general	HDPE or Glass	1000 mL, 100 g	For dissolved metals filter immediately, pH < 2 with HNO ₃ , cool to <4°C	6 months
Chromium VI	HDPE or Glass	1000 mL, 100 g	Cool to <4°C	24 hours
Mercury	HDPE or Glass	1000 mL, 100 g	pH < 2 with HNO ₃ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Nitrogen, Ammonia	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	pH < 2 with H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Nitrate	HDPE or Glass	250 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
Nitrate + Nitrite	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	pH < 2 with H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Nitrite	HDPE or Glass	250 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
Total Kjeldahl	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	pH < 2 with H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Oil and Grease	Glass	1000 mL	pH < 2 with HCL or H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Oxygen, Dissolved	Glass	300 mL		0.25 hours
PCBs	Glass	1000 mL, 100 g	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Pesticides	Glass	1000 mL, 100 g	Cool to <4°C	7 days
pH	HDPE or Glass	100 mL, 100 g		0.25 hours
Phosphorus, Total	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	pH < 2 with H ₂ SO ₄ , cool to <4°C	28 days
Semi-Volatiles (BNAs)	Glass	1000mL, 100 g	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Settleable Matter	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
Specific Conductance	HDPE or Glass	500 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
Total Dissolved Solids	HDPE or Glass	200 mL	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Total Solids	HDPE or Glass	200 mL	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Total Suspended Solids	HDPE or Glass	200 mL	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Total Volatile Solids	HDPE or Glass	200 mL	Cool to <4°C	7 days
Turbidity	HDPE or Glass	100 mL	Cool to <4°C	48 hours
VOCs	Glass	3-40 mL VOAs, 100 g	pH < 2 with HCL, cool to <4°C	14 days