

Sample Preservation and Holding Times

PARAMETER	MATRIX	CONTAINER	PRESERVATION	HOLDING TIME
Coliform, Fecal and Total	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, 0.008% Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃	6-24 hours
Coliform, Delayed	NA	NA	Cool 4°C	72 hours
Acidity	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	14 days
Alkalinity	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	14 days
Ammonia	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Bromide	W	P, G	None Required	28 days
Chemical Oxygen Demand	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Chloride	W	P, G	None Required	28 days
Chlorine, Total Residual	W	P, G	None Required	Analyze immediately
Color	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Cyanide, Total	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, NaOH pH>12, plus 0.6 g Ascorbic acid	14 days
Cyanide, Amendable to Chlorination	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, NaOH pH>12, plus 0.6 g Ascorbic acid	14 days
Fluoride	W	P, G	None Required	28 days
Hardness	W	P, G	HNO ₃ pH<2	6 months
PH	W	P, G	None Required	24 hours
Kjeldahl and Organic Nitrogen	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Metals	W	P, G	HNO ₃ pH<2	6 months
Nitrate	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Nitrate-Nitrite	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Nitrite	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Orthophosphate	W	P, G	Cool	48 hours
Oxygen, Dissolved	W	G, Bottle and Top	None Required	Analyze immediately
Phenolics, Total Recoverable	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Phosphorus	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Residue, Total	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	7 days
Residue, Filterable (TDS)	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	7 days
Residue, Nonfilterable (TSS)	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	7 days
Residue, Settleable	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Residue, Volatile	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	7 days
Silica	W	P Only	Cool 4°C	28 days
Specific Conductance	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	28 days
Sulfate	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	28 days
Sulfide	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, Zinc Acetate And NaOH to pH>9	7 days
Sulfite	W	P, G	None Required	24 hours
Surfactants (MBAS)	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Temperature	W	P, G	None Required	Analyze Immediately
Toxicity	W	P	Cool 4°C	36 hours
Turbidity	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Chromium VI	W	P, G	Cool 4°C	24 hours
Mercury	W	P, G	HNO ₃ pH<2	28 days
Oil and Grease	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days

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Organic Carbon, Total (TOC)	W	P, G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Organic Halogens, Total (TOX)	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Organic Halogens, Absorbable, (AOX)	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Total Recoverable	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	28 days
Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Total	W	G	Cool 4°C, H ₂ SO ₄ pH<2	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Volatile, (GRO)	W	G	Cool 4°C HCL pH<2	14 days
Purgeable Halocarbons	W	G	Cool 4°C HCL pH<2	14 days
Purgeable Aromatic Hydrocarbons (BTEX)	W	G	Cool 4°C HCL pH<2	14 days
Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Extractable (DRO)	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Alcohols and Glycols	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Phenols	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Organochlorine Pesticides and PCBs	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Chlorinated Hydrocarbons	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Organophosphorus Pesticides	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction
Semivolatiles Organics	W	G	Cool 4°C	7 days until extraction; 40 days after extraction

W = Aqueous, P = Plastic, G = Glass