

REFERENCE CHART: HOLDING TIME, BOTTLE TYPE, PRESERVATION, MINIMUM VOLUME

Note: Multiple analyses may be run from the same container, provided that the bottle type, volume and preservation are appropriate.

Analytical Parameter	Maximum Holding Time	Required Container Type	Required Preservative	Minimum Amount
Alkalinity (Bicarb, Carb, Hyd, and Tot); SM 2320 B	14 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Ammonia (NH ₃ as N); SM 4500NH3 B/C or B/G	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	200 mL
Anions by EPA 300.0: Chloride (Cl ⁻); Fluoride (F ⁻); Nitrate (as N); Sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻)	28 days 48 hours (Nitrate)	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Asbestos (TEM)	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	1000 mL
Bioassay (Acute Tox) % survival	36 hours	Plastic cubitainer	0-6°C	1-5 gal
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD); SM 5210 B	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	250 mL
Chromium, Hexavalent (CrVI); SM 3500Cr B	24 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	200 mL
Chlorine, residual; SM 4500Cl B or G	15 minutes	Field Measurement	-	-
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD); SM 5220 D or EPA 410.4	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	50 mL
Chlorophyll A (Algal Biomass) / Pheophytin; SM 10200 H	48 Hours to filter 28 days once filtered	Amber Plastic	0-6°C, unfiltered -20°C, filtered	1 L
Coliform, Total / Fecal; SM 9221 B/E	8 hrs – wastewater/stormwater 24 hrs – drinking water	Plastic (sterile)	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ + 0-10°C	100 mL
Coliform, Total / E.Coli; SM 9223 B (Present/Absent or Quantitray)	24 hours	Plastic (sterile)	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ + 0-10°C	100 mL
Color; SM 2120 B	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Conductivity (EC/SC); SM 2510 B	28 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Cyanide Total; SM 4500CN B/C/E or B/C/I	14 days	Amber or opaque plastic with NaOH pH >10+0-6°C Pre-treatment for Total Cyanide samples with chlorine or NO ₃ /NO ₂ should be done prior to preservation. Kits can be provided upon request.		100 mL
Cyanide WAD; SM 4500CN B/C/E or B/C/I	14 days	Amber plastic	NaOH pH >10+0-6°C	
Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC); SM 5310 B	Filter within 48 hours 28 days	250 mL Amber glass	Filter then add HCl to pH< 2 + 0-6°C	50 mL
Dissolved Oxygen (DO); SM 4500 G	15 minutes	Field Measurement or Glass bottle/no headspace Collect in duplicate	0-6°C	500 mL
Enterococcus by Enterolert	8 hours	Plastic (sterile)	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ + 0-10°C	100 mL
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC/SPC); SIMPLATE	8 hours	Plastic (sterile)	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃ + 0-10°C	100 mL
Hardness (by titration); SM 2340 C	180 days	Plastic / Glass	HNO ₃ pH <2	250 mL
Metals, Dissolved {2}; EPA 200.8	Filter within 15 minutes {2} , 6 months	Plastic / Glass	Filter then add HNO ₃	100 mL
Metals, Total; EPA 200.8	6 months	Plastic / Glass	HNO ₃ pH <2	100 mL
Metals, Total; EPA 6010/6020		Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C	1 8oz
Mercury (Hg) EPA 245.1	28 days	Plastic / Glass	HNO ₃ pH <2	100 mL
Mercury (Hg) EPA 7471		Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C	1 8oz
Mercury, Total; EPA 1631 (Aqueous)	48 hours to preserve 90 days once preserved	Glass, Dbl Bagged (not appropriate for samples with solids TSS>200 mg/L)	HCl	100 mL
Mercury, Total; EPA 1631 (Sludge or Solids)	90 days frozen	Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C	1 8oz
Mercury, Dissolved {2}; EPA 1631	Filter within 24 hours, Preserve within 48 hours 90 days once preserved	Glass, Dbl Bagged	Filter in lab, then HCl	100 mL
Mercury, Methyl; EPA 1630 (Aqueous)	Preserve {8} within 48 hrs 6 months preserved	Glass, Amber Dbl Bagged	Dark and cool + (HCL or H ₂ SO ₄ {8})	100 mL
Mercury, Methyl; EPA 1630 (Sludge or Solids)	6 months frozen	Solids in Amber Poly SJ	Solids to be Frozen	1 8oz
Mercury, Dissolved {2} Methyl; EPA 1630	Filter & preserve within 48 hrs 6 months once preserved	Glass, Amber Dbl Bagged	Filter in Lab, 0-6°C + HCl if < 10 ppT salinity {8}	100 mL
Nitrate (as N); EPA 300.0	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Nitrite (as N); SM 4500NO2 B	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100 mL
Nitrate+Nitrite as N (NO ₃ +NO ₂ -N) EPA 353.2, or SM NO3 F	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	100 mL
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl (TKN); SM 4500Norg + SM 4500NH3 B	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	200 mL
Nitrogen, Total Organic (TON) TKN-NH ₃ = TON calc	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	200 mL
Odor; SM 2150 B	6 hours (recommended) / 24 hour regulatory	Glass only	0-6°C	250 mL
Oil & Grease, Total and/or Hydrocarbons EPA 1664	28 days	Amber Glass only-in duplicate	HCl pH <2 + 0-6°C	1 L {10}
Chlorinated Pesticides & PCBs	7 days, Aqueous	Glass Amber Liter {6}	0-6°C {5}	1 L
EPA 625.1 (formerly EPA 608) /8081/8082	14 days, Sludge or Solid	Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C	1 8oz



Analytical Parameter	Maximum Holding Time	Required Container Type	Required Preservative	Minimum Amount	
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's) EPA 625.1/8270	7 days, Aqueous 14 days, Sludge or Solid	Glass Amber Liter {6} Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C {5} 0-6°C	1 1	L 8oz
Organophosphorus Pesticides EPA 625.1 (formerly EPA 614) /8141	7 days, Aqueous 14 days, Sludge or Solid	Glass Amber Liter. Collect In triplicate Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C {5} 0-6°C	1 1	L 8oz
Semi-volatile Organics EPA 625.1/8270	7 days, Aqueous 14 days, Sludge or Solid	Glass Amber Liter {6} Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C {5} 0-6°C	1 1	L 8oz
Pyrethroid Pesticides GCMS-NCI-SIM/ EPA 8270M/625.1M	7 days/3 days {9} 14 days, soil or sediment	Glass Amber Liter. Collect In triplicate Solids-Amber Glass SJ	0-6°C {5} Solids to be Frozen	1 1	L 8oz
Carbamate Pesticides EPA 632/8321	7 days, Aqueous 14 days, Sludge or Solid	Glass Amber Liter. Collect In triplicate Solids in Glass SJ	0-6°C	1	L
Volatile Organics EPA 524.2 {4}	14 days, preserved	Glass VOA vial {1} (sample in triplicate)	HCl pH <2 + 0-6°C {4}	40	mL
Volatile Organics EPA 624.1 {3} (Includes Acrolein and Acrylonitrile)	14 days except: 3 days unpreserved for Acrolein {12} 7 days unpreserved for BTEX only {11}.	Total of four 40 mL VOA Vials; Two Pres w/ HCl, Two Unpreserved {1} THMS only—3 HCl VOAs	0-6°C (see holding time for additional preservation)	One 40mL of each container type described	
Volatile Organics; EPA 8260 {3}	14 days (aqueous) 14 days Sludge/solid	Four (4) Glass VOA vial {1} Solids in separate glass jar filled to top	HCl pH <2 + 0-6°C 0-6°C	40 1	mL 8oz
TPH Diesel/Motor Oil; EPA 8015	7 days	Glass Amber Liter {6}	0-6°C	1	L
Tributyltin (TBT)	7 days (recommended)	Glass Amber Liter {6}	0-6°C	1	L
TPH Gas/ BTEX/ MTBE; EPA 8260	14 days preserved	Glass VOA vial {1}	HCl pH <2 + 0-6°C	40	mL
Dioxin; EPA 1613	1 year	Glass Amber Liter {6}	0-6°C {5}	1	L
Perchlorate; EPA 314.0	28 days	Plastic/Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
pH; SM 4500 H+ B	15 minutes	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Phenols, EPA 420.1	28 days	Glass Amber 250 mL	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2 +0-6°C	200	mL
Phosphate, Ortho (as P); SM 4500P E	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Phosphate, Ortho, Dissolved (as P); SM 4500P E	15 minutes to filter / 48 hrs once filtered	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Phosphorus, Total (PO ₄ as P); SM 4500P B/F or B/E	28 days	Plastic / Glass	H ₂ SO ₄ pH <2+0-6°C	100	mL
Solids, Settleable (SS); SM 2540 F	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	1000	mL
Solids, Total (mg/L or %); SM 2540 B, or SM 2540 G	7 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Solids, Total Dissolved (TDS); SM 2540 C	7 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Solids, Total Suspended (TSS); SM 2540 D	7 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	200	mL
Solids, Volatile Suspended (VSS); SM 2540 E	7 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	200	mL
Sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻), EPA 300.0	28 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Sulfide, Dissolved; SM 4500 S2- B/D	7 days	Glass 250 mL	AlCl ₃ + NaOH +0-6°C	250	mL
Sulfide, Total; SM 4500 S2- C/D	7 days	Glass (preferred)/plastic (no headspace)	NaOH + ZnAC pH >9 + 0-6°C	250	mL
Sulfite (SO ₃)	7 days	Glass Amber 500 mL	EDTA + 0-6°C	250	mL
Surfactants (MBAS); SM 5540 C	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	250	mL
Suspended Sediment Conc. (SSC); ASTM D3977	7 days	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C {7}	100	mL
Total Organic Carbon (TOC); SM 5310 B	28 days	Amber Glass VOA (3 vials)	HCl pH <2 + 0-6°C	40	mL
Turbidity; SM 2130 B, or EPA 180.1	48 hours	Plastic / Glass	0-6°C	100	mL
Ultraviolet Absorption (UVA at 254nm); SM 5910 B	48 hours	Glass Amber 125mL	0-6°C	125	mL

- {1} Volatile organic samples need to be filled in multiple VOA vials without air bubbles/headspace (≤6 mm in size).
- {2} Dissolved metals require field or lab filtration through 0.45-micron filter prior to preservation. 40 CFR 136.3 requires filtration within 15 minutes.
- {3} Volatile organic methods EPA 624.1 and 8260 require dechlorination using Sodium Thiosulfate (Na₂S₂O₃) at time of sampling if chlorine is present. (Thiosulfate dechlorination bottles are available at the laboratory upon request.) Dechlorination is to occur before transferring to the appropriate VOA.
- {4} Volatile organic method EPA 524.2 requires de-chlorination using ascorbic acid at time of sampling if chlorine is present. Ascorbic acid dechlorination kits are available at the laboratory upon request. If analyzing for THMs only, Sodium Thiosulfate (Na₂S₂O₃) may be used, and acidification can be omitted. Otherwise, dechlorinate with Ascorbic acid, then preserve with HCl. If the sample foams vigorously upon addition of HCl, discard and collect unpreserved dechlorinated sample, and notify the laboratory as the samples must be analyzed within 24 hours of collection if they are to be analyzed for any compounds other than THMs. Method 524.2 requires a travel/trip blank with each sample set collected.
- {5} If sampling from a chlorinated location, add 80 mg/L Sodium Thiosulfate (Na₂S₂O₃) per liter and mix well. Any method suitable for field use may be employed to test for residual chlorine (Reference 16). Add more sodium sulfate if 80 mg/L is insufficient but do not add excess sodium thiosulfate.
- {6} Semi Volatile Organics Amber Liters (AL) should be collected in duplicate, to ensure volume for re-extraction if necessary. When possible, please collect 4 AL per method to allow the laboratory to perform matrix Quality Control (MS/MSD).
- {7} Suspended Sediment Conc.(SSC) requires its own container and the entire contents are used for the analysis.
- {8} Preserve with HCl if less than 10 ppt Salinity, or Preserve with H₂SO₄ if greater than 10 ppt Salinity.
- {9} Cyhalothrin in water has a 3-day hold time in reagent water per USGS study. Permethrin in water has a 3-day hold time per Storage Stability Study by CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture.
- {10} 1000 mL required for RL of 5 mg/L; 250 mL bottle recommended for samples with expected concentrations of 20 mg/L or higher.
- {11} If unpreserved, must be analyzed within 7 days of sampling
- {12} Hold time can be extended to 14 days if preserved to pH 4-5 at time of collection.

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