



EPA 1633 Sampling Guide for Non-Potable Water and Soil

PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE PRIOR TO YOUR SAMPLING EVENT

Know before you go...

Collecting samples for PFAS, regardless of method, can be challenging due to the prevalence of these compounds in consumer products and their ubiquity in the environment. Cross-contamination prevention is the first step in achieving high quality data. The following considerations should be made prior to any sampling event:

- **What you wear is important.**
 - DO NOT wear clothing or boots made from Tyvek® or GORE-TEX®. Cotton is recommended.
 - DO NOT use fabric softener on clothing to be worn in the field.
 - Avoid using cosmetics, moisturizers, sunscreen, insect repellents, or other related products on the day of your sampling event.
 - Safety boots and wet weather gear should be made from polyurethane or PVC.
 - ALWAYS wear the provided nitrile gloves when handling samples and sample containers and change gloves often.
- **Yes, PFAS is in your food and food packaging.**
 - Limit food consumption to your field staging area.
 - Take only what you need to stay hydrated into sampling areas.
- **What you use is important too.**
 - ANYTHING touching your sample(s) must NOT contain Teflon® or be made from LDPE. Field sampling equipment should be made of stainless steel, HDPE, acetate, silicone, or polypropylene.
 - Avoid using waterproof field notebooks, plastic clipboards, binders, aluminum foil, permanent markers, or anything with adhesive like Post-it® Notes or duct tape.
 - Regular ballpoint pens are okay.
 - ONLY use sample containers made of polypropylene or HDPE with unlined caps. Check your supply. Many sample containers come with Teflon®-lined caps.
- **Consider collecting PFAS samples first.**
 - Sample containers for other methods may have PFAS present on their surface which could cross-contaminate your samples. ALWAYS store PFAS samples in a separate marked cooler away from other samples.
 - ONLY use regular ice to chill your samples. Chemical ice packs should not be used.
- **Finally, equipment decontamination.**
 - If a detergent is needed to decontaminate your equipment, ONLY use Alconox® or Liquinox®.
 - For rinsing equipment ONLY use PFAS-free water which can be made available in limited quantities by the lab upon request. Alternatives include Poland Spring® bottled water and HPLC-grade (or higher) water purchased from a reputable source (Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific, VWR, etc.).



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The day of...

York provides sample kits tailored to your project. Sample kits will be different depending on whether you're collecting samples for water, soil, or quality control (QC). Sample kits will contain one or more of the following bottle sets:

- Water Samples: (2) 500-mL PP or HDPE bottles with no preservative.
- Soil Samples: (1) 250-mL PP or HDPE bottle with no preservative.
- Field Blank (FB) or Equipment Blank (EB): (2) empty 500-mL PP or HDPE bottles with no preservative *and* (2) 500-mL PP or HDPE bottles containing PFAS-free water. Do not use this water for equipment decontamination.

Each set above will come in its own Ziplock bag containing a pair of nitrile gloves. Bottle sets will be labelled for their intended purpose, and PFAS sample kits will be segregated into PFAS-Only labelled coolers.

Collecting samples...

- Wash hands prior to collecting samples and use the provided nitrile gloves. Changing into clean gloves between collecting each sample is recommended.
- Do not overfill or rinse the sample containers. Water samples need only be filled to the neck of the bottle and soil samples no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Sample containers are designed to hold the appropriate volume needed.
- Ensure caps are secured after sample collection.
- Label samples legibly and return samples to their original bag.
- Store samples onsite in the separate cooler provided and chill using regular ice.

Back to the lab...

- Samples should be kept at $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and must not exceed $10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ during the first 48 hours after collection.
- Ensure the Chain-of-Custody (COC) is complete, contains all the necessary information, and is signed.
- Ideally, samples are received by the laboratory on the same day as collected, but method holding times are 28 days for waters and 90 days for soils.

The guidance above reflects current knowledge and is based on recommendations from the US EPA, various state agencies, and years of experience in providing testing services to the environmental industry. As always, if you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact your York project manager. You can call us at 1-800-306-9675 or email clientservices@yorklab.com.