

Volatile Organic Compounds VOCs Sampling Instructions



If you have questions regarding your sample collection, please call us Monday - Friday from 8 am - 6 pm at (775) 355-0202.

Sampling Supplies

Samples for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are collected in 3 40-mL glass vials with a septum cap (VOA Vials). You may be given a Trip Blank vial and/or an additional bottle to dechlorinate your sample source.

Trip Blank:

You may be given a vial labeled "TRIP BLANK 524.2" filled with DI water. If an unexpected VOC hits in your results, it may be run to confirm or refute the possibility of outside sample contamination. The Trip Blank must remain with sample vials for the entire sampling process + transport to the lab. Do not open the Trip Blank.

For Chlorinated Drinking Water Systems:

Residual chlorine needs to be removed from the water before you begin sampling. You will be given an additional bottle with a white label.

Instructions:

- Bottle contains Ascorbic Acid, do not rinse.
- Fill the bottle with the sample.
- Use this filled bottle to fill the 3 VOA vials.

Sample Collection Procedure

1 VOA vials contain hydrochloric acid as a preservative. Do not rinse or scoop up water with the vials.

2 Fill the VOA vials slowly to the top so that a meniscus forms on the vial. Avoid overflowing because this can wash out the preservative.

From a Chlorinated Drinking Water Source:

- See instructions above before filling vials

From a Faucet:

- Remove any attachments from the faucet such as aerators, screens, or filters.
- Run water for several minutes before sampling.
- Water flow should be at the diameter of a pencil.

From a Source Without a Tap:

- Some sources may require using a **different clean glass container** to scoop up the sample from the source to avoid washing out the preservative. You can then pour the sample into the VOA vials.
- Use a different clean glass container for each location if sampling from multiple sites.

3 Place cap straight down on the vial and secure tightly.

4 Once the cap is secure, turn the vial upside down and gently flick to check for air bubbles.

If Air Bubbles are Present:

- Open the vial.
- Do not empty out the contents.
- Add a little of the sampled water into the cap.
- Gently recap vial and check for air bubbles.
- Repeat until no air bubbles are present.

It is important that there are no air bubbles inside of the vials. The compounds we test for volatilize when they come in contact with air. Vials received with air bubbles larger than a pea will be rejected or be reported with data qualifiers. The samples will be unusable for compliance monitoring.

5 Fill out the bottle's label with water repellent ink. Fill out your Chain of Custody (COC) form.

6 Deliver samples to your local WETLAB. Samples must be received by the lab at 2°-6°C (35°-42°F) and on ice. If you were provided a Trip Blank, keep it with your samples.

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