

EFFEX Analytical Services General Sampling Instructions

This information is for general sample collection and maintenance of sample integrity prior to testing for various parameters in water. If you are uncertain which instructions to use please call the lab (702)367-1187

IMPORTANT:

- ☼ Wash your hands before and after sampling
- ☼ Do not rinse out bottles & never overflow containers
- ☼ Do not open bottles labeled Custody Seal or Trip Blank
- ☼ Do not place lids on ground, touch the inside of containers, or take samples during rainy or windy conditions
- ☼ Keep samples cold but not frozen
- ☼ Record sample information (date, time, sampling location, etc...)

BACTERIOLOGICAL:

1. Choose a water tap free of aerators, strainers, hose attachments, mixing/swivel type faucet, and purification devices
2. Clear service line by maintaining a steady water flow for at least 5 minutes prior to taking a sample(until steady water temp is achieved)
3. Sterilization of the faucet or spigot should be attempted. Methods of sterilization include burning with a flame, chlorination with bleach and rag, and running hot water for a few minutes. Actual sample taken should be cold water.
4. Fill the sterile container containing $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ to the fill line(at least 1 inch air space must be achieved).
5. Replace the bottle cap immediately after sampling. Drinking water samples must be kept cool and delivered to the lab within 24hrs of sampling(6hrs for non-drinking water samples)

INORGANIC CHEMICALS(Most samples) and RADIOLOGICAL:

1. Clear the service line by maintaining a steady water flow for at least 5 minutes prior to taking sample
2. Fill container(s) and cap tightly
3. Keep samples cool at 6 degrees Celcius or less- hold times vary so return to lab promptly

VOLATILE ORGANICS(VOC's) or TRIHALMOTHANES(THM's):

1. Fill the 3-50mL VOA vials with sample until completely full. Carefully screw the cap

back on the vial.

2. Turn the vial upside down. If air is visible add more sample until zero headspace is achieved.
3. Keep samples cool at 6 degrees Celcius or less and return to lab within 3 days of sampling.

Some tests dropped of on Thursday or Friday may require weekend hours and may result in additional charges.

Please contact the lab if you have questions regarding your samples.