

PFAS FIELD SAMPLING GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ENTIRELY PRIOR TO SAMPLING EVENT

Sampling for PFAS can be challenging due to the prevalence of these compounds in consumer products. The following guidelines are strongly recommended when conducting sample collection.

FIELD CLOTHING AND PPE

- No clothing or boots containing Gore-Tex™, Scotch-Guard™, or other waterproofing
- No materials containing Tyvek™
- Do not use fabric softener on clothing to be worn in the field
- Do not use cosmetics, moisturizers, hand creams, or other related products the day of the sample collection
- Do not use sunscreen or insect repellent the day of sample collection
- Wet weather gear made of polyurethane or PVC only

FOOD CONSIDERATIONS

No food or drink on-site

SAMPLE CONTAINERS

- All sample containers made of HDPE or polypropylene
- Caps are unlined and made of HDPE or polypropylene (no Teflon™ lined caps)

FIELD EQUIPMENT

- Must not contain Teflon™ or LDPE materials
- All sampling materials must be made from stainless steel, HDPE, acetate, silicon, or polypropylene
- No waterproof field books can be used
- No plastic clipboards, binders, or spiral hard cover notebooks can be used
- No adhesives (e.g., Post-It™ Notes) can be used
- Sharpies and permanent markers not allowed; regular ballpoint pens are acceptable
- Aluminum foil must not be used
- Keep PFAS samples in separate cooler, away from sampling containers that may contain PFAS
- Coolers filled with regular ice only – do not use chemical ice packs
- PFAS-free water for decontamination of sample equipment. No other water sources to be used
- Only Alconox™ and Liquinox™ can be used as decontamination media

SAMPLE COLLECTION

Field blank instructions

1. Locate the reagent water container from the bottles supplied by the laboratory (which will be prefilled with PFAS-free water and a preservative).
2. Locate the empty container labeled “field blank.”
3. Open both containers and transfer contents of the reagent water container to the field blank container.

4. Note that field blanks need to be noted on the Chain of Custody document.
5. Both the empty reagent water container and the filled field blank container must be returned to the lab along with the sample(s).

Sampling instructions:

1. Each sampling event may contain 1 or more containers to be filled to the neck for each sampling location.
2. Do not place fingers inside either sample container or lid.
3. Before sampling, remove faucet aerator, run water for five minutes, slow water flow to avoid splashing and fill to the neck of the container. Do not overfill or rinse container. Replace lid and invert five times.
4. Ensure Chain-of-Custody document and all sample container labels contain required information. Place containers, including field blank and empty reagent water container, in Ziploc™ bag, then place bag in ice filled cooler. Place Chain-of Custody document in a Ziploc™ bag and include in cooler.
5. Replace faucet aerator.
6. Return cooler to the laboratory.