



EPA 537 (PFAS) Field Sampling Guidelines

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ENTIRELY PRIOR TO SAMPLING EVENT

Sampling for PFAS via EPA 537 can be challenging due to the prevalence of these compounds in consumer products. The following guidelines are strongly recommended when conducting sampling.

Reference-NHDES <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/documents/pfc-stakeholder-notification-20161122.pdf>

FIELD CLOTHING and PPE

- No clothing or boots containing Gore-Tex®
- All safety boots made from polyurethane and PVC
- No materials containing Tyvek®
- Do not use fabric softener on clothing to be worn in field
- Do not use cosmetics, moisturizers, hand cream, or other related products the morning of sampling
- Do not use unauthorized sunscreen or insect repellent (see reference above for acceptable products)

FOOD CONSIDERATIONS

No food or drink on-site with exception of bottled water and/or hydration drinks (i.e., Gatorade and Powerade) that is available for consumption only in the staging area

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Sample for PFAS first! Other containers for other methods may have PFAS present on their sampling containers

SAMPLE CONTAINERS

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

WET WEATHER (AS APPLICABLE)

Wet weather gear made of polyurethane and PVC only

EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATION

- "PFAS-free" water on-site for decontamination of sample equipment. No other water sources to be used
- Only Alconox and Liquinox can be used as decontamination materials

FIELD EQUIPMENT

- Must not contain Teflon® (aka PTFE) 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 (i.e. Post-It® Notes) can be used
- Sharpies and permanent markers not allowed; regular ball point pens are acceptable
- Aluminum foil must not be used
- Keep PFC samples in separate cooler, away from sampling containers that may contain PFAS
- Coolers filled with regular ice only - Do not use chemical (blue) ice packs



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Sampler must wash hands before wearing nitrile gloves in order to limit contamination during sampling. Each sample set requires a set of containers to comply with the method as indicated below. *Sample set is composed of samples collected from the same sample site and at the same time.

Container Count	Container Type	Preservative
3 Sampling Containers - Empty	250 mL container	Pre preserved with 1.25 g Trizma
1 Reagent Water for Field Blank use	250 mL container	Pre preserved with 1.25 g Trizma
P1 Field Blank (FRB) - Empty	250 mL container	Unpreserved

Sampling container must be filled to the neck. For instructional purposes a black line has been drawn to illustrate the required fill level for each of the 3 Sample containers

Field blanks are recommended and the containers have been provided, please follow the instructions below.

Field Blank Instructions:

1. Locate the Reagent Water container from the bottle order. The Reagent Water container will be pre-filled with PFAS-free water and is preserved with Trizma.
2. Locate the empty container labeled "Field Blank".
3. Open both containers and proceed to transfer contents of the "Reagent Water" container into the "Field Blank" container.
4. If field blanks are to be analyzed, they need to be noted on COC, and will be billed accordingly as a sample.



Both the empty Reagent Water container and the filled Field Blank container must be returned to the lab along with the samples taken.

Sampling Instructions:

1. Each sampling event requires 3 containers to be filled to the neck of the provided containers for each sampling location.
2. Before sampling, remove faucet aerator, run water for 5 min, slow water to flow of pencil to avoid splashing and fill sample containers to neck of container (as previously illustrated) and invert 5 times.
3. Do not overfill or rinse the container.
4. Close containers securely. Place containers in sealed ZipLoc® bags, and in a separate cooler (no other container types).
5. Ensure Chain-of-Custody and all labels on containers contain required information. Place sample, Field Blank and empty Reagent Blank containers in ice filled cooler (do not use blue ice) and return to the laboratory. Samples should be kept at 4°C ±2. Samples must not exceed 10°C during first 48 hours after collection. Hold time is 14 days.

Please contact your Alpha Analytical project manager with additional questions or concerns.