



## Sampling for Nutrient Testing

This pamphlet outlines sample requirements for common nutrient analyses requested by our clients. Each analysis requires specific sample containers, volumes and handling procedures to ensure accurate results. Appropriate sample containers are available from North Island Labs upon request. If you need more information, please contact us directly.

### Ammonia (N):

- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar; preserved with 25% Sulphuric Acid (available upon request).
- Carefully pour preservative into bottle and fill to top with sample water. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- **Regular Detection Limit:** 0.01 mg/L      Sample is viable for 7 days.
- **Low level Detection Limit:** 0.002 mg/L      Sample is viable for 48 hours. **No preservative.**

### Nitrate (N):

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Fill bottle completely. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- **Regular Detection Limit:** 0.01 mg/L
- **Low Level Detection Limit:** 0.002 mg/L

### Nitrite (N):

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Fill bottle completely. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- **Regular Detection Limit:** 0.01 mg/L
- **Low Level Detection Limit:** 0.002 mg/L

### Ortho-Phosphate:

- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Fill bottle to top and cap. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample Viable for 48 hrs.
- **Regular Detection Limit:** 0.01 mg/L
- **Low Level Detection Limit:** 0.001 mg/L

### Total Nitrogen:

- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar; preserved with 1:1 Hydrochloric Acid (available upon request).
- Carefully pour preservative into bottle and fill to top with sample water. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 28 days.
- **Detection Limit:** 0.05 mg/L

### Total Phosphate:

- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar; preserved with 25% sulphuric acid (available upon request).
- Pour vial of preservative into bottle and fill to top with sample water. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- **Regular Detection Limit:** 0.01 mg/L      Sample is viable for 28 days.
- **Low Level Detection Limit:** 0.003 mg/L      Sample is viable for 48 hrs. **No preservative.**

### Submitting Samples:

- If you are using our satellite office in Nanaimo, please submit samples **before 11 am** to ensure same day shipment to the lab. Any samples taken after 11 am should be submitted directly to our Courtenay lab.
- Samples may be submitted any day Monday to Friday.
- Please submit a requisition form with your samples. It is important that we have documentation to ensure proper sample analysis and result distribution. Forms can be obtained at either office; digital copies are available on our website.
- Please label the sample bottles with your company name, project name, sample site id, and date/time of sample collection.

### Receiving Results:

- Results can be emailed or faxed. An original hardcopy will be mailed with the invoice/statement of account.
- Results can be sent to **one** third party.