



Sampling Instructions for Physical & Chemical Tests

This pamphlet outlines sample requirements for common chemical 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.

pH:

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Holding Time: ASAP

Conductivity (EC):

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 7 days.
- Regular Detection Limit: 1 uS

Turbidity:

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- Regular Detection Limit: 0.5 NTU

Alkalinity:

- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample Viable for 14 days.
- Regular Detection Limit: 10 mg/L (CaCO₃)

Total Dissolved Solids (gravimetric):

- Minimum sample volume 250 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample Viable for 7 days.
- Regular Detection Limit: 5 mg/L

Total Metals Scan:

- Analysis of over 30 different elements.
- Minimum sample volume 100 mL in a clean plastic jar; preserved with 20% Nitric Acid (available upon request).
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 6 months.
- Detection Limit: variable

Total Mercury:

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic jar; preserved with 20% Nitric Acid (available upon request).
- Carefully fill bottle and refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 28 days.
- Regular Detection Limit: 0.0001 mg/L

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 11am 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.