



Sampling Instructions for STP Monitoring

This pamphlet outlines sample requirements for common nutrient analyses requested by Sewage Treatment Facilities. 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.

Bacteria – Coliforms, E.coli & Enterococci

- Minimum sample volume: 250 mL in a sterile bottle.
- Fill bottle leaving an inch of headspace. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for only 24 hours.
- **Detection Limit:** 1 cfu/100mL or 2 MPN/100mL

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD-5day)

- Minimum sample volume: 300 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Fill bottle completely. It is important that there is no headspace. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- **Detection Limit:** 5 mg/L

Carbonaceous/Soluble BODs (cBOD or sBOD-5day)

- Minimum sample volume: 300 mL in a clean plastic bottle.
- Fill bottle completely. It is important that there is no headspace. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- **Detection Limit:** 5 mg/L

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)

- Minimum sample volume 50 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.
- Sample is viable for 48 hours.
- **Detection Limit:** 10 mg/L

pH:

- Minimum sample volume 50 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Fill bottle completely. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 24 hours.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

- Minimum sample volume 300 mL in a clean plastic jar.
- Fill bottle completely. Refrigerate or pack on ice until delivery to the lab.
- Sample is viable for 7 days.
- **Detection Limit:** 5 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 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.