

## **UPDATED PFAS SAMPLE COLLECTION INFORMATION**

Note: On day of sample collection, take PFAS samples first before any other sampling parameter due to potential contamination from other types of sample bottles. Please collect PFAS samples within 4 days of receiving your sample kit to minimize the chance of environmental sample bottle contamination.

**Routine PFAS monitoring samples should be collected at the entry point to distribution.** For more details about monitoring requirements, please see here:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/DWGWP/Documents/MonitoringInstructions.pdf?v=2020>

**On the laboratory intake paperwork (i.e. Chain of Custody) label samples associated with a WSID monitoring schedule as routine "RT". Confirmation samples, source sampling, or investigative samples should be labeled as special "SP".**

The following sampling procedure shall be followed in conjunction with ensuring none of the prohibited items identified in Table 1 below are present during sample collection:

1. The sampler shall wash their hands before sampling and wear new powderless nitrile gloves while filling and sealing each set of sample bottles.
2. Turn on the tap (with the aerator removed) and flush until the water temperature stabilizes (approximately 5 minutes). Reduce flow to avoid splashing. Do not sample from a garden hose, analyzer tubing, or irrigation devices. Use only cold water for sampling.
3. Fill sample bottles such that sample preservation reagent is not flushed out. It is acceptable for the sample bottle to have headspace.
4. After collecting the sample, cap the bottle and agitate by hand until the preservative is dissolved.
5. Label the bottle with the associated sampling location and indicate Facility ID, Sample Point, and WSID on laboratory sample intake forms (i.e. chain of custody).
6. Keep the sample sealed from the time of collection until delivered to the laboratory, and inside sealable polyethylene (i.e. Ziploc) bags provided in sample kit.
7. Chill samples during shipment; samples should not exceed 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) until received by the laboratory. Do not allow the samples to freeze.

In order to determine whether PFAS may have been introduced during sample collection and handling, a field reagent blank (FB) shall be collected from each sampling site and at the same time of sampling. Field reagent blanks must contain same preservative as sample bottles. If any of the 5 regulated PFAS are detected above the reporting level of 2.0 ng/L in a sample, associated field blanks will need to be analyzed and reported. Field blanks do not need to be analyzed or reported if regulated PFAS are not detected above the reporting level in the samples.

When collecting a confirmation sample, trip blanks (TB) shall be prepared by the laboratory in advance and follow the sample bottles and same shipping containers as the samples and returned to the laboratory. Trip blanks must not be opened. **Trip blanks are only required when collecting confirmation samples.**

Field blanks shall be prepared as follows:

- a) Open the Field Reagent Blank at the location of the sampling site and pour the reagent water into the empty sample bottle that came with the Field Reagent Blank.
- b) Seal the sample bottle.
- c) Label the sample bottle as the Field Reagent Blank for the associated sampling site and ship it back to the laboratory along with the sample for each sampling site.

Confirmation samples, when required, must be collected as soon as possible but within ten (10) days of the system receiving the initial results and the same laboratory must be used for analysis.

Table 1. (Captured and edited from ASDWA – PFAS Lab Testing Primer Version 2)

Category	Prohibited Items/Actions that could introduce PFAS Sample Contamination	Allowable Items
Pumps and Tubing	Teflon® and other fluoropolymer containing materials	High-density polyethylene (HDPE), stainless steel tubing, silicone tubing
Sample Container Storage	Containers should not come into contact with carpeting or upholstery inside buildings or vehicles	Containers should be stored in a sealable polyethylene bag (i.e. Ziploc) bag and transported in coolers
Stacked Glassware	Foil should not be used as a layer between stacked glassware	Plain Paper
Field Documentation	Waterproof/treated paper or field books, plastic clipboards, permanent markers, Post-It® and other adhesive paper products	Plain Paper, metal clipboard, ball-point pens
Clothing	Clothing or boots made of treated with Gore-Tex® or other synthetic water resistant and/or stain resistant materials like ScotchGuard® or Tyvek® material	Synthetic or cotton material, previously laundered clothing (preferably previously washed greater than six times) without the use of fabric softeners
Personal Care Products (used on day of sample collection)	Cosmetics, moisturizers, perfumes, hand cream and other related products	<p><u>Sunscreens:</u>                      Alba Organics Natural                      Yes to Cucumbers                      Aubrey Organics                      Jason Natural Sun Block                      Kiss My Face                      Baby-safe sunscreens ('free' or 'natural')</p> <p><u>Insect Repellents:</u>                      Jason Natural Quit Bugging Me                      Repel Lemon Eucalyptus                      Herbal Armor                      California Baby Natural bug spray                      Babyganics</p> <p><u>Sunscreen and Insect Repellents:</u>                      Avon Skin So Soft Bug Guard-SPF 30</p>
Food and Beverage	Pre-packaged food, fast food wrappers or containers	Do not eat or drink while collecting samples