

SAMPLE HOLDING TIME INFORMATION

Soil

Analyte	Container type	Minimum sample required	Reference	Maximum holding time from sampling	
				pre drying/extraction ¹	post drying/extraction ²
Ammonium	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 week	
Anions	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	3 years
BTEX	60ml glass jar	Full container	EPA 8260	2 weeks	N/A
Conductivity	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 week	3 years
Cyanide	Glass or plastic	500g	EPA 9010B/9012	2 weeks	
Heavy metals	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	6 months	30 years
Hexavalent chromium	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	
Loss on ignition	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	
OCP	Glass	250g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	
Oil & grease	Glass	250g	EPA 9070/1	1 month	
Organic matter	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	
PAH	Glass	250g	EPA 8100/8270	2 weeks	6 weeks
PCB	Glass	250g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	
pH	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 week	3 years
Phenols	Glass	500g	EPA 8270	2 weeks	6 weeks
PRO	60ml glass jar	Full container	EPA 8015	2 weeks	N/A
Sulphide	Glass or plastic	500g	BRE SD1	3 weeks	1 month
SVOC	Glass	250g	EPA 8270	2 weeks	6 weeks
TEM/CEM	Glass	500g	EPA 418.1	2 weeks	6 weeks
Thiocyanate	Glass or plastic	500g	EPA 9251	No special requirement	
Total sulphur	Glass or plastic	500g	BS ISO18512:2007	1 month	3 years
TPH (C10-C40)	Glass	250g	EPA 418.1	2 weeks	6 weeks
VOC	60ml glass jar	Full container	EPA 8260	2 weeks	N/A

Sample storage environment 5°C

1. From sampling to extraction

2. Once extracted

Waters

Analyte	Container type	Min sample required (ml)	Reference	Preservative required	Max holding time until extraction
Alkalinity	Glass or plastic	250	EPA 310.2	none	2 weeks
Ammonium	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	3 weeks
BOD	Glass or plastic	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	2 days
BTEX	Glass vial	Full container	Lab validation	none	2 weeks
CEM/TEM	Glass	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	Hydrochloric acid	1 month
Chloride	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	1 month
COD	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	1 month
Conductivity/TDS	Glass or plastic	100	EPA 160.1	none	1 week
Cyanide	Plastic	100	EPA 9012/335.3	Sodium hydroxide	2 weeks
Hexavalent chromium	Glass or plastic	500	EPA 218.6 fn 20	Amm. sulphate/hydroxide	1 month
Kjeldahl nitrogen	Glass or plastic	250	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	1 month
Mercury	Glass or plastic	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	Nitric acid/Pot Dichromate	1 month
Metals general	Glass or plastic	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	Nitric acid	1 month
Nitrate	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	2 days
Nitrite	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	2 days
OCP	Glass	250	EPA 8081A/608	none	1 week
Oil & grease	Glass	250	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	1 month
PAH	Glass	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	1 week
pH	Glass or plastic	100	Lab validation	none	1 week
PCB	Glass	500	EPA §136.3	none	1 year
Phenols	Glass	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	3 weeks
Phosphate	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	1 month
PRO	Glass vial	Full container	EPA 8015	none	2 weeks
Sulphate	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	none	1 month
Sulphide	Glass or plastic	250	ISO 5667 3:2003	NaOH/Zinc acetate	1 week
Suspended solids	Glass or plastic	250	EPA §136.3	none	1 week
SVOC	Glass	500	EPA 8270/625	none	1 week
TOC	Glass or plastic	100	ISO 5667 3:2003	Sulphuric acid	1 week
TON	Glass or plastic	100	EPA §136.3	none	1 month
TPH/EPH	Glass	500	ISO 5667 3:2003	Hydrochloric acid	1 month
VOC	Glass vial	Full container	Lab validation	none	1 week
VOC	Glass vial	Full container	EPA 8260/624	Hydrochloric acid	2 weeks

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