

Collecting Your Surface Water Sample for PFAS: Step By Step Instructions

Before you start:

Prior to sampling:

- Hands should always be well washed and gloved when handling the sampling bottle.
- Bottles should only be opened immediately prior to sampling
- Clothing advertised as having waterproof, water-repellant, or dirt and/or stain characteristics could contain PFAS and should not be worn.
- Do not wear new or unwashed clothing or anything applied with or recently washed with fabric softeners or fabric protectors (including UV protection).
- Do not handle or apply personal care products such as sunscreen, insect repellent, or moisturizers.

In the field:

- Do not use waders made of Gore-Tex or other known PFAS containing materials.
- Life jackets made of PFAS-free materials such as polyethylene foam and nylon shell fabric may be used.
- If samples are collected while wading in the water body, the bottle should be immersed inverted and upstream of the collector.
- If samples are collected from a boat, the bottles should be submerged upstream of the boat.
- Do not insert any materials inside the sample bottle.
- Bottles should be capped immediately after collecting the sample.
- Never place the sample cap directly on the ground or boat deck during sampling.
- Do not handle, consume, or otherwise interact with pre-wrapped food or snacks, carry-out food, fast food, or other food items while on-site during sampling. Paper plates, food containers, bags and wraps are to be avoided.
- If storing sample in cooler, do not store with food or drink.
- If placing sample in a cooler, use only regular ice. Chemical or blue ice may contain PFAS.

Post-sampling:

- Do not filter the sample water.
- All samples must be double bagged.
- Samples should be shipped as soon as possible.

Step 1: Fill out the enclosed data card.

Step 2: Wash hands with soap and hot water thoroughly before entering the field.

Step 3: Once in the field, put on gloves before handling the sampling bottle.

Step 4: Take the top off of empty water bottle- keep the bottle top in one hand. With the other hand, submerge the bottle in water up to cuff of the glove, holding bottle inverted and upstream of the collector.

Step 5: Immediately put the cap back on the sampling bottle. If on a boat while sampling, place the bottle in a cooler filled with regular ice.

Step 6: Put bottle(s) in the plastic bag and seal the ziplock. The sample should be double bagged. If on a boat while sampling, place the bottle in a cooler filled with regular ice.

Step 7: Attach return data label to the shipping box. Store in refrigerator if unable to mail immediately. Mail within five days of water collection.

Step 8: Take the box to post office, pay postage, and mail! Wait patiently for your results, which should arrive in four weeks.