

Sampling Instructions for Inorganic Analysis

1. Collect a sample that is representative of the water source you wish to test. If you treat the water, collect after treatment. Collect water from a tap that is frequently used. Remove any aerators, strainers or filters. A well-head sample is recommended if you do not treat your water.
2. Do Not rinse the sample bottles. A few drops of nitric acid (HNO_3) have been added as a preservative to the bottle with the red dots. A few pellets of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) or ascorbic acid have been added as a preservative to the bottle with the purple dots. DO NOT ALLOW THE PRESERVATIVE TO COME IN CONTACT WITH SKIN OR CLOTHING.
3. Allow water to run (at least two minutes) until it reaches a constant temperature.
4. Fill up all bottles, but please do not overflow.
5. Screw the lids on tightly to prevent leakage during shipment and fill out the bottle labels completely.
6. Be sure to fill out the Chain of Custody completely, and return it with your sample. It is imperative to fill out all the information on the form and on the bottle label for us to accurately process your sample. Place bottles in shipping container with ice or frozen refrigerant pack. Place insulating material between the bottles and the refrigerant pack. Temperature of the cooler upon receipt must be at $(4 \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C})$. **If samples are not preserved properly, the data will be flagged as not meeting EPA or NELAC standards.**