



PFAS Sampling Instructions for Public Water Systems

Sample Collection Preparation

- **Do not wear** anything made of Gore-Tex™, other water-resistant synthetics, coated Tyvek® clothing, or clothes laundered with fabric softener. Food packaging should not be present in the sampling area.
- Do not remove bottles from the cooler until you are preparing to collect the sample. Filled sample bottles should be returned to the cooler immediately after they are filled.
- Samples should be collected in the following order to minimize contamination:
 - **Collect all Finished Water Entry Points.**

Sample Collection Procedures

- **Go to the first finished water entry point tap** for the appropriate location to be sampled.
- Rinse hands thoroughly with tap water without using soap. Air dry or dry with plain cotton cloth. Do not use recycled paper towels. Put on a pair of the Nitrile gloves included in the sampling kit.
- Samples should be collected in the following order to minimize contamination:
 - **1 - Pour the Field Blank water into the other Field Blank bottle FIRST**, at a Finished Water Entry Point
 - **2 - Collect all Finished Water Entry Points.** Collect in duplicate.
- Collect the PFAS samples using the following procedure:
 - Start at the **first finished water entry point tap** - Remove any attached hoses or tubing and ensure that the sample tap is clean and free of tape or adhesive.
 - Rinse hands thoroughly with tap water without using soap. Air dry or dry with plain cotton cloth. Do not use recycled paper towels. Put on a fresh pair of the Nitrile gloves included in the sampling kit.
 - Open the water sample tap fully and let it run for at least 5 minutes prior to sampling.
 - Reduce the stream to approximately the width of a pencil.
 - **Collect the field blank (FRB)** using the following procedure:
 - Remove the cap from the 250 mL bottle filled with PFAS-free water and the 250 mL sample bottle containing Trizma preservative. Do not let the caps touch the ground or another surface that could result in cross-contamination.
 - Slowly pour the water from the full bottle into the other FRB bottle containing the Trizma preservative and replace the cap. This is your field blank, which will be used as a control during analysis to protect against false positives.
 - Remove and discard your Nitrile gloves.
 - **Collect the sample from the finished water entry point** using the following

procedure:

- Remove the caps from the labeled 250 mL sample bottles for this site containing the Trizma preservative. Do not let the caps touch the ground or another surface that could result in cross-contamination.
- Fill the bottles from the sample tap to the neck of the bottle. Do not overfill the bottle or let it spill, as this could dilute the preservative and invalidate the sample.
- Put the caps on the bottles immediately.
- Shake the bottles slightly to dissolve the preservative.
- Place the sample bottles in the return cooler.
- Note date/time collected on the Chain of Custody
- **Repeat** the above process to collect the PFAS sample **for each finished water entry point** location.
- Place all the samples (including the field blanks) in a refrigerator until they are ready to be shipped overnight to a laboratory certified to analyze PFAS in Drinking Water if you cannot ship the day the samples were collected. The samples must arrive at the lab at a temperature less than 10°C.

Sample Documentation

- Fill out the Chain of Custody form with the **date and time** of sampling. **Sign and date** the Chain of Custody in the appropriate space at the top. Sign and date the Chain of Custody at the bottom before shipping. Place Chain of Custody in Ziploc bag and seal tightly.

Sample Shipping

- **Samples should be shipped to the lab the same day of sample collection.**
- Pack the samples in the return cooler using the attached instructions. The samples should be placed inside the cooler in a single layer inside the large plastic bag provided by the lab. Fill the large plastic bag containing the samples with ice and seal it tightly with a zip tie.
- The samples must arrive at the lab at a temperature less than 10°C. Do not use “blue” ice.
- Seal the cooler tightly with tape and affix the FedEx return shipping label included with the kit.
- Arrange with FedEx to pick up your samples or plan to drop them off at a FedEx location.