

Deviating Samples

What is a deviating sample?

A deviating sample has not been correctly cared for, or the information received is not sufficient in order to ascertain if it has been correctly cared for. Examples are:

- No date sampled – samples deviate automatically
- Received in the incorrect container for the testing required
- Received outside of the recommended holding time
- Sample contains significant headspace

All of these factors may affect the quality of the sample and therefore in turn the quality of the analytical data produced. The analysis completed maintains its accreditation; however the results may be considered to be deviating and should be interpreted with caution.

At i2 Analytical we have worked hard to establish sample receipt and preservation methods which cause minimal fuss to our customers.

Soil Samples

For chemical analysis, soil samples should be preserved by cooling, using frozen ice packs in the cool boxes or enviro sample kits. The sample environment should be kept below 12 °C where possible **or** received in the lab within 24 hours of sampling with frozen ice packs.

Samples should then be received (with testing instruction) at the main sample reception in Watford within the recommended time frame, for standard soil analysis this is within 7 days of sampling.

Soil containers:

- VOC and TPH bands below C10 require a **30g VOC Soil Jar** filled with **zero 'headspace'** (no air gap) and have PTFE liners for a gas-tight seal
- Samples for Organics require a **60g Soil Jar**
- Other testing comes from the 60g Jar or **500g plastic tub**



Water Samples Water samples should be preserved by cooling, using frozen ice packs in the cool boxes or enviro sample kits. The sample environment should be kept below 8 °C **or** received in the lab within 24 hours of sampling with frozen ice packs.

Samples should then be received (with testing instruction) at the main sample reception in Watford within the recommended time frame. Our most time critical tests with the shortest holding times are listed below:

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| BOD | 24 hours |
| pH | 72 hours |
| Ammonia | 72 hours (Preserved on receipt) |

| Sampling/collection Day | Collection Method | Sample Received Day | Holding time OK? |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Thursday | Next day courier | Friday before 1pm | YES to all |
| Friday | i2 same day courier | Friday after 1pm | NO to BOD & DO |
| Friday | Next day courier | Monday am | NO to BOD & DO |
| Friday | Client drop off | Friday before 1pm | YES to all |

Water containers:

- VOC and TPH bands below C10 require a **40 ml amber glass vial**, filled with **zero 'headspace'** (no air gap) and have PTFE liners for a gas-tight seal.
- Samples for **BOD** require a separate **300 ml amber glass bottle**, with **zero 'headspace'**.
- Samples for general chemical testing, including organics must be received in **300 ml amber glass bottles**



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