# Envirolab Holding Times and Container Information

| WATERS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Analyte | Type of Container | Preservation | Maximum holding time (days unless stated) |
| TPHs | G | N/A | **21#** |
| PAHs | G | N/A | **14*** |
| EPH | G | N/A | **15#** |
| VPH | G^ | N/A | **14*** |
| VOCs | G^ | N/A | **14*** |
| PCB | G | N/A | **21#** |
| SVOC | G | N/A | **14*** |
| Phenols | P | pH <2 with H2SO4 | **21*** |
| Oil & Grease | G | N/A | **30*** |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen | P | pH <2 with H2SO4 | **21*** |
| DOC | P | pH <2 with H2SO4 | **28*** |
| General Metals (except Cr6+) | P | Filter (0.45µm) and pH <2 with HN03 | **6 months*** |
| Hardness | P | Filter (0.45µm) and pH <2 with HN03 | **6 months*** |
| Cr6+ | P or G | N/A | **11#** |
| Boron | P or G | N/A | **180*** |
| TSS | P or G | N/A | **9#** |
| TDS | P or G | N/A | **30#** |
| Fluoride | P or G | N/A | **30*** |
| Chloride | P or G | N/A | **30*** |
| Nitrite / Nitrate | P or G | N/A | **3**** |
| Phosphate | P or G | N/A | **30*** |
| Sulphate | P or G | N/A | **30*** |
| Cyanides | P | pH >12 with NaOH | **14*** |
| Conductivity | P or G | N/A | **28*** |
| pH | P or G | N/A | **3**** |
| COD | P | pH <2 with H2SO4 | **30*** |
| BOD | P or G^ | N/A | **2*** |
| Sulphide | P | pH >12 with NaOH | **14*** |
| Alkalinity | P or G | N/A | **14*** |
| Turbidity | P or G | N/A | **2*** |
| Dissolved Oxygen | P or G | N/A | **2*** |

| SOILS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Analyte | Type of Container | Preservation | Maximum holding time (days unless stated) |
| TPHs | G | N/A | **14#** |
| PAHs | G | N/A | **14*** |
| EPH | G | N/A | **28*** |
| VPH | G^ | N/A | **14*** |
| VOC | G^ | N/A | **14*** |
| PCB | G | N/A | **30*** |
| SVOC | G | N/A | **14*** |
| Nitrite / Nitrate | G or P | N/A | **30*** |
| Chloride | G or P | N/A | **30*** |
| Sulphate | G or P | N/A | **30*** |
| Metals | G or P | N/A | **6 months*** |
| ws Boron | G or P | N/A | **6 months*** |
| Acid soluble sulphate | G or P | N/A | **30*** |
| Cyanides | G or P | N/A | **14*** |
| pH | G or P | N/A | **180#** |
| Sulphide | P or G | N/A | **7*** |
| TOC | G or P | N/A | **28*** |

**Note:** Holding Time is defined as the maximum amount of time from the point of sampling until the moment of preparation or analysis and not when the samples are received by the laboratory.

**KEY:**

**#** Based on In-house Stability Trials

* Guidance from maximum of BS ISO 18512:2007, 5667-3:218 & USEPA SW846 ch 3 & 4.

** Guidance from Standing Committee of Analysts, The stability and Preservation of Drinking, Ground and Surface water samples 2018

**^** - No headspace should be present in container

**G** - Glass

**P** - Plastic