

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 H ₂ SO ₄	21*
Oil & Grease	G	N/A	30*
Ammoniacal nitrogen	P	pH <2 with H ₂ SO ₄	21*
DOC	P	pH <2 with H ₂ SO ₄	28*
General Metals (except Cr ₆₊)	P	Filter (0.45µm) and pH <2 with HNO ₃	6 months*
Hardness	P	Filter (0.45µm) and pH <2 with HNO ₃	6 months*
Cr ₆₊	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	14 [#]
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	16 [#]
COD	P	pH <2 with H ₂ SO ₄	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*

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*

Key:

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

Based on in-house stability trials

[^] No headspace should be present in container

G = Glass

P = Plastic

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.