

Holding Time Chart

METAL TESTS	CONTAINER	PRESERVATIVE	MAX HOLDING TIME
Antimony	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Arsenic	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Barium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Beryllium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Boron	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	28 days
Cadmium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Calcium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Chromium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Cobalt	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Copper	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Hardness	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Iron	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Lead	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Magnesium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Manganese	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Molybdenum	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Nickel	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Potassium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Selenium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Sodium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Thallium	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
Zinc	Plastic or Glass	HNO ₃ to pH<2	6 months
ENVIRONMENTAL	CONTAINER	PRESERVATIVE	MAX HOLDING TIME
Acidity	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	14 days
Alkalinity	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	14 days
Ammonia	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Carbonaceous (BOD)		Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Chloride	Plastic or Glass	None required	28 days
Chlorine	Plastic or Glass	None required	Analyze immediately
Conductivity	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	28 days
Dissolved Oxygen	Glass, Bottle & top	MnSO ₄ reagent & alkali-iodide-azide Reagent	Analyze immediately

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ENVIRONMENTAL	CONTAINER	PRESERVATIVE	MAX HOLDING TIME
Fluoride	Plastic or Glass	None required	28 days
Oil and Grease (HEM)	Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Nitrate	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Nitrate & Nitrite	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Nitrite	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Nitrogen, Total	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Nitrogen, Organic	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Pesticide Screen	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
pH	Plastic or Glass	None required	Analyze immediately
Phosphorus, Ortho	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Phosphorus, Total	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Phosphorus Water Extractable	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	21 days
Silica	Plastic only	Cool, ≤ 6°C	28 days
Sulfate	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	28 days
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl (TKN)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C, H ₂ SO ₄ to pH<2	28 days
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
Total Dissolved Volatile Solids (TDVS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
Total Solids (TS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
Turbidity	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	48 hours
Volatile Acids	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	14 days
Volatile Solids (VS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS)	Plastic or Glass	Cool, ≤ 6°C	7 days
MICROBIOLOGICAL	CONTAINER	PRESERVATIVE	MAX HOLDING TIME
Iron Bacteria	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	48 hours
Sulfur Bacteria	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	48 hours
Total Coliforms	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	30 hours
E. coli	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	30 hours
Fecal Coliforms	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	30 hours
Enterococcus Bacteria	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	30 hours
Heterotrophic Plate Count	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	48 hours
Pseudomonas	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	48 hours
Aerobic Plate Count	Sterile Plastic	Cool, ≤4.5	48 hours

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