

PFAS by Method 1633 Sampling Guide

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are abundant in everyday items. Sampling for PFAS requires special care to avoid cross contamination between the sample and common sampling equipment and other everyday items. Please familiarize yourself with this sampling guide before heading out to the sampling site.

Sampling requirements:



Samples must be received at the laboratory below 6°C within 48 hours of sampling.



Samples must be protected from light after sampling.



Samples must be double bagged in plastic bags and isolated to their own cooler.

Abstain from using the following items:



Any items containing fluoropolymers, such as Teflon. Such items include, but are not limited to: Teflon bailers, Teflon tubing, pumps containing Teflon materials such as Teflon tape, Teflon lined bottles or caps.



Eating food in the sampling area.



Using personal care products, insect repellent, or sunscreen in the sampling area.

Allowed equipment:



Equipment comprised of HDPE, PVC, polypropylene, silicone, or stainless-steel.



Laboratory tested PFAS free HDPE or Polypropylene containers.



HDPE sheeting

◇ Solid

Items needed:

1 - 100 ml
Polypropylene
or Polyethylene
container and cap

1 - 250 ml HDPE,
Polypropylene
cap for PMOIST*

Cooler with
ice/fridge

Nitrile
gloves

Things to look out for:

1. Use PFAS free sampling equipment, such as stainless steel buckets, shovels, and trowels.
2. If sampling soil cores, ensure the liner the core is in is PFAS free.
3. Collect PFAS samples before sampling for any other analyses.
4. Only fill the 100 ml Polypropylene container halfway with sample.

◌ Water

Items needed:

2 - 500 ml HDPE,
Polypropylene cap

1 - 250 ml HDPE,
Polypropylene
cap for TSS*

Cooler with
ice/fridge

Nitrile
gloves

Things to look out for:

1. Use PFAS free sampling equipment, such as equipment composed of HDPE, PVC, polypropylene, silicone.
2. Collect the most representative portion of the sample point (i.e. the middle of a stream, a faucet that has let water run out for a few minutes, etc.).
3. Do not fill the sample containers past shoulder to allow room for expansion during sample storage.
4. Collect PFAS samples before sampling for any other analyses.

◌ Leachate

Items needed:

2 - 500 ml HDPE,
Polypropylene
cap

1 - 250 ml HDPE,
Polypropylene
cap for TSS*

Cooler with
ice/fridge

Nitrile
gloves

Things to look out for:

1. Two of the three sample containers must be filled to the 100ml line.
2. The third container (TSS container) should be filled to the shoulder.
3. Collect PFAS samples before sampling for any other analyses.

 Follow preservation requirements for TSS and PMOIST samples: Cool to 0-6 °C; 7 day hold time.