

## EPA Recommended Containers, Preservation Techniques and Holding Times

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Container</u>	<u>Preservation</u>	<u>Maximum Holding Time from Sampling</u>
Alkalinity (HCO <sub>3</sub> , CO <sub>3</sub> )	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days
Ammonia	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	28 days
Boron	Plastic, PTFE or quartz	HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months
Chloride	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	None required	28 days
Hardness	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months
Kjeldahl N	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	28 days
Soluble Metals (excludes Hg, B)	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Filter, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months
Total Metals (excludes Hg, B)	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months
Mercury	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	28 days
Nitrate + Nitrite	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	28 days
Nitrate	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours
Nitrite	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours
Organic Carbon	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , HCl* or H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	28 days
Orthophosphate	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Filter immediately, Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours
Phosphorus (total)	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH<2	28 days
pH	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	None required	Analyze within 15 minutes
Total Solids	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days
Total Dissolved Solids	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days
Total Soluble Solids	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days
Volatile Suspended Solids	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days
Silica	Plastic, PTFE or quartz	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days
Specific Conductance (EC)	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days
Sulfate	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days
Turbidity	Plastic/PTFE/Glass	Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours

Reference: 40 CFR Ch. 1 (e-CFR Data current as of 5-2-08), §136.3, Table II - Required Containers, Preservation Techniques and Holding Times

**\* Note: The UC Davis Analytical Lab equipment is not compatible with HCl-preserved samples for organic carbon.**