

# Sampling Instructions for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

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Drinking Water Samples – EPA Method 537.1 or EPA Method 533

## Overview

This guidance provides instructions for collecting drinking water samples for PFAS analysis using EPA Method 537.1 or EPA Method 533. The procedures below are intended to minimize the potential for contamination and ensure that samples are collected and shipped correctly.

## Sampling Kit Contents

### 1. Nitrile Gloves

Use nitrile gloves when collecting PFAS samples. Gloves should be changed between each sampling location to prevent cross contamination.

### 2. Pre-Labeled Sample Containers

The sampling kit includes pre-labelled HDPE containers containing the appropriate preservative for the requested analytical method.

- EPA Method 537.1 – Preserved with Trizma
- EPA Method 533 – Preserved with ammonium acetate

Collect drinking water samples by filling two 250 mL containers from the same sampling location. Ensure the sample identification, date, and time of collection are recorded on each container.

### 3. Field Reagent Blank (FRB)

EPA Methods 537.1 and 533 require the collection of a Field Reagent Blank (FRB). Each sample set must include an FRB. A sample set is defined as samples collected from the same site and at the same time. The same lot of preservative must be used for the FRBs as for the field samples. The FRB evaluates potential contamination introduced during sampling.

The sampling kit includes two 250 mL containers filled with PFAS free water and two empty containers. Prepare the FRB in the field by transferring the preserved PFAS free water into an empty container and labeling it FRB with the date and time.

### 4. Chain of Custody

Complete the Chain of Custody form using the same information listed on the sample containers. The form must be signed when samples are relinquished for shipment.

## Sample Handling and Packing Instructions

### 1. Use the Cooler and Containers Provided

Samples should be shipped in the cooler and containers supplied by the laboratory whenever possible.

### 2. Maintain Proper Sample Temperature

PFAS drinking water samples must be maintained at or below 10°C during shipment and should be received within 2 days of collection. Place samples in the cooler with wet ice. Natural ice is recommended because some blue ice products may contain PFAS related compounds.

### 3. Include Chain of Custody Documentation

Place the completed Chain of Custody form inside a zip lock bag and place it on top of the bag containing the samples and ice, inside the cooler.

### 4. Seal the Cooler

Securely tape the cooler closed before shipment. Tape around the lid several times near each end to prevent the cooler from opening during transport.

## Shipping Address

*Deliver direct or ship via FedEx or UPS to the attention of your project manager or Sample Receiving at:*

GEL Laboratories LLC  
2040 Savage Road  
Charleston SC 29407  
Phone 843 556 8171