

Nitrate Sample Collection Technique

Steps and procedures for collecting nitrate samples can vary depending on the laboratory used, so follow the instructions provided by the individual laboratory. The general sampling procedure for nitrate monitoring is as follows:

Step One

Freeze the chemical cold pack before collecting samples.

Step Two

Locate a sampling tap downstream of treatment (if applicable) but prior to entry to the distribution system.

Step Three

Remove any attachment from the tap such as hoses, filters, screens, or aerators.

Step Four

Flush the water for about 10 minutes or until the water reaches a constant temperature.

Step Five

While water is running and before collecting the sample, COMPLETELY fill out the laboratory form and sample label. Laboratory forms vary, but the following information is very important to include:

- Water System ID number
- Water System name
- Sample type and purpose (usually "RC" for routine compliance sample)
- Collection date and time
- Sample location (specific location, or example "pumphouse tap")
- System type
- Sample type (i.e., pre-treatment/raw or post-treatment/finished)

Step Six

Fill sample container bottle to the shoulder of the bottle.

Step Seven

Keep all samples refrigerated until ready to ship. Just prior to shipping, package the samples, frozen chemical cold pack, and completed sample information form into a container and arrange for delivery to the laboratory within 24 hours. If you have questions about sampling collection procedures, contact the Water Quality Control Division.