



Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) Sampling Guide

VOCs General Information:

Volatile organic chemicals include components of petroleum based products and industrial solvents and chemicals. They may be associated with leaking underground tanks, improper disposal practices, leachate from landfills, discharge from chemical plants and other activities. Ingestion of these chemicals at certain levels in drinking water may lead to anemia, liver and spleen disorders, reproductive problems and an increased risk of certain cancers. Their presence in drinking water may be linked to possible contamination by these sources and may indicate a poorly constructed or damaged well, a vulnerable aquifer, a contaminated site, or a combination of any of these.

Sampling Procedures:

1. Obtain the proper sample containers for the VOC or EPA 524, 624, or 8260 method. MTA uses three 40 ml vials preserved with HCl.
2. Tap each vial in the upright position to drain the preservative from the cap. **DO NOT RINSE VIAL BEFORE COLLECTION.** Do not open the vial until ready to collect the sample. Do not rinse the inside of the cap or vial.
3. Sample from clean tap prior to any treatment, preferably at the well head. Flush the tap for 3-5 minutes prior to sample collection at full flow. Carefully label each vial while you flush and complete the COC paperwork.
4. Reduce flow and collect the sample directly into all vials provided. Fill vial until the water rounds at the top of the vial. Cap and invert, and give vial a tap to check for air bubbles. If any air bubbles are observed, carefully remove the cap and slowly add more water. Do not dump out the water and start again. When finished, the rubber part inside the cap ring must be smooth side down in contact with the sample to avoid possible contamination.
5. Keep the samples cool and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.
6. Do not place cooler of samples near any potential volatile contaminants, such as a gas can. The vapors could potentially contaminate your samples.

Please contact our Client Services Department for a bottle order or any additional questions at (800) 268-7021!