

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LABORATORY
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**SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS for HERBICIDES in WATER - KIT OE - EPA Method 515.4
REGULATED WATER SYSTEMS ONLY**

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO COLLECTING THE SAMPLE. If these instructions are not followed closely, it may result in the analysis being delayed, or the sample being rejected. **Caution: Ice packs must be frozen before sampling.**

What you will need to collect the sample:

Three (3) 60 ml. amber glass bottles each containing 3 mg Sodium Sulfite (preservative)
Frozen Ice pack
A Water Sample Collection Information form (CHEM 202)
Herbicides Sampling Instructions (CHEM 407A)

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU WEAR SAFETY GLASSES AND CLEAN NEOPRENE GLOVES WHILE TAKING THE SAMPLE.

The sample must be taken at the point of entry to the distribution:

- a) If the system is served by surface water the sample must be taken after any application of treatment.
- b) If the system is served by ground water the sample must be taken at a location representative of each source after any application of treatment.

- 1) **FREEZE THE ICE PACK.**
- 2) Do not touch the mouths of the bottles with your fingers. Do not rinse the bottles.
- 3) Let cold water run for 3-5 minutes at full flow before taking sample. Put on neoprene gloves and safety glasses.
- 4) Fill the bottles without overflowing. Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage, and invert the bottle six (6) times to mix the sample with the sodium sulfite.
- 5) Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage. Shake the bottle for one minute to mix the Sodium Sulfite with the sample. Wipe the bottle clean, then dispose of the towel and remove your gloves.
- 6) If you are collecting and shipping more than one sample set, make sure each sample is labeled with its sampling location or some other identifying mark. ("Sample A", "Sample B", etc.)
- 7) Write in the date and time of collection, town name, your name ("sampler"), and a daytime phone number on the **SAMPLE COLLECTION INFORMATION FORM**. If you are sending more than one sample, put the same identifying information as you put on the samples, in the "submitter remarks" section. **If proper identification (date and time of sampling) is not submitted, the sample can not be analyzed.**
- 8) Package the sample with the **FROZEN ICE PACK**. Include the water sample collection form.
- 9) Return the sample to the Laboratory within 48 hours from the time you collected the sample.

KEEP SAMPLE COOL. MAIL OR DELIVER PROMPTLY! THE SAMPLE SHOULD BE RECEIVED DURING BUSINESS HOURS AND WITHIN 48 HOURS OF SAMPLING.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding these instructions, please call or write to us. Thank you.