

## Selecting an Accredited Environmental Laboratory

Not all laboratories can serve every need; just because they can test for something doesn't mean that their data is acceptable.

Several state rules require the use of a state-accredited laboratory. This accreditation assures that minimum requirements for quality are being met and provides a greater level of confidence in the results.

### These easy steps will help you obtain what you need when selecting a laboratory.

- For convenience or for short holding times, you may want to choose a laboratory located nearby. Go to our GIS map at <https://tinyurl.com/3t47umd4> and look for a commercial laboratory in your area.
- You can also search our database for accredited laboratories across the country, or in any state, at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3enna7> and filter by the matrix and analytes that you need tested.
- Ask the laboratory for their current scope of accreditation so you can verify if they are accredited for the specific parameters you need.
- Be sure to search the scope for the specific matrix that you are dealing with: drinking water, non-potable water (wastewater), or solids/chemical materials such as sludge, soil and hazardous waste.
- If you do not see the specific parameters you need, ask the laboratory.
- Check for the expiration date of the scope. DEQ Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) scopes expire August 31 of each year.
- An accredited laboratory will have the following documents you can ask to review if you have concerns:
  - a quality assurance plan;
  - results for proficiency testing samples; and
  - a copy of the most recent laboratory assessment by their primary accreditation body.

If results for any sample are outside your expectation, ask for specifics. You can have the laboratory send you a data packet related to the results. Upon request, DEQ LAP can assist in interpreting the packet.

Laboratory Accreditation Program  
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
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