

**Nitrate + Nitrite as N**

# State Environmental Laboratory Services

## Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality



Sampling Guide For The Collection Of EPA 353.2 Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen

### PRIOR TO COLLECTION

- Plan enough time to complete sampling; samples must be returned within **48 hours** of collection
- Ensure the Sample Kit has the following items:
  - Chain of Custody form
  - one 125mL plastic bottle per sampling point
  - one barcode label
  - cooler for return shipping
  - one small vial of sulfuric acid per bottle

**NOTE!** Be cautious when handling sulfuric acid. If skin contact occurs, flush with water for five minutes.

### SAMPLE REJECTION

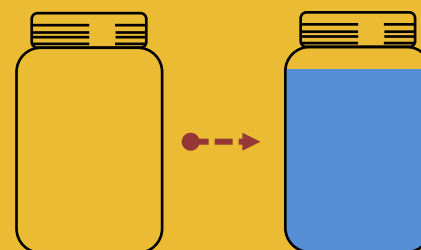
Samples will be rejected (not analyzed) if any of the criteria below is met:

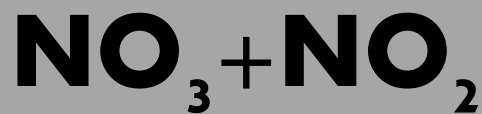
- forms are incomplete, illegible, or missing
- bottle is not labeled to match sampling point
- bottle is not on ice or at proper temperature of  $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$
- sample is frozen
- sample is not received within method holding time of **48 hours**
- sample is not received in the DEQ provided 125mL plastic bottle
- damaged beyond usability
- not collected from approved sample site

### SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. Allow water from tap to run for five minutes then reduce flow to slow, steady stream.
2. Fill the provided 125mL bottle to the neck (see figure to the right).
3. Pour entire bottle of the Sulfuric Acid preservative into sample container.
4. Replace the cap and securely fasten. Do not over tighten; this could result in a broken lid or bottle.
5. Vertically place bar code label on bottle. The barcode must match the Chain of Custody for each sampling site. If bar code is not provided, write PWSID#, date, time collected, and sample point on the bottle.
6. Immediately place all bottles in provided cooler and fill with ice. Do not store samples in freezer as they may break.

7. Complete the Chain of Custody.
8. If necessary, proceed to next collection site if needed and repeat steps 1-7.
9. See back for "Sample Delivery" details.





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### SAMPLE DELIVERY

#### Mail

Sign and date each Chain of Custody form before mailing. Place all completed forms in a Ziploc® bag or another waterproof container. Place forms in cooler with your THM samples, HAA samples, and ice. If using a courier, i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc., address your label as the following;

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
707 N. Robinson  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

For USPS shipments, address your label as the following:  
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 1677  
Oklahoma City, OK. 73102

**\*\*Ensure postage is marked for next-day priority shipping to ensure that ice does not melt before delivery\*\***

#### Personal Delivery

The person delivering samples will sign all Chain of Custody forms at the receiving window of the DEQ Sample Management Unit located through the door on the northeast corner of the DEQ building. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm except on state holidays.

For collection assistance or questions, scan the QR code to the right to view the SELS contact page.

**Need  
Help?**

For questions about the analytical prices and fees, scan the QR code to the right, or visit the SEL's page of the DEQ's website at [www.deq.ok.gov](http://www.deq.ok.gov)



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For further assistance or concerns, call 405-702-1000 or email us at [selsd@deq.ok.gov](mailto:selsd@deq.ok.gov)

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SEL-Customer\_Assistance/Instructions for PWS – Nitrate/ Nitrite: 8999-GUI02-R03-102324