

# How to sample: a general overview



## Sampling and containers

'Results are only as good as the sampling technique' is a well-used adage in any form of testing fields, whether it be water, clinical, soil or agricultural testing.

We offer a diverse selection of sample containers that will meet your needs. Don't hesitate to contact us and inform us about your specific requirements.

You will require the following:

1. Poly bin with ice packs and pre-addressed courier sticker for easy return.
2. Appropriate sample containers.
3. You can find the Chain of Custody paperwork, which should include the customer information as well as the required analysis:

[www.analytica.co.nz/resources/download-forms/](http://www.analytica.co.nz/resources/download-forms/)

To ensure accurate testing, micro samples should be delivered to the lab within 24 hours. It is advisable to collect samples in the afternoon and promptly drop them off at a local NZ courier depot for overnight delivery.

Remember to freeze the ice packs the night before sampling, as they will be needed to immediately chill the samples from the time of collection until they reach the laboratory during transit.

## General sampling from a tap or bore (preserver or unpreserved sample container)

1. Wipe the outside of the tap with a clean cloth.
2. Turn the tap on to steady flow rate and allow to flow for 1-3 minutes. This ensures anything that has leached and pooled in the piping will be flushed out and not included in the sample.
3. Open collection bottle, holding the lid face downwards to prevent contamination.
4. Immediately hold the bottle under the water flow.
5. Once the container is full, immediately secure the lid tightly.

Note: Please ensure that you take care to prevent any contact between your skin and the preservative in our sealed container. It is crucial not to remove or consume it.

## General sampling from a surface water (river or creek)

- Open the container and partially submerge with the container facing away from you and into the upstream flow, avoid disturbing or collecting any sediment as this will adversely affect the results.
- Once the container is filled, immediately secure the lid tightly.

## Returning samples

- Place samples into the supplied poly bin with the pre-frozen ice packs to keep samples cool through transit to the laboratory.
- It is important to clearly label the samples with at least two unique references that match the paperwork.
- Include a filled-out Chain of Custody and enclosed in a Ziplock bag.
- Tape the poly bin lid closed with packing tape or Sellotape to ensure it does not spill open during transit.
- Adhere the pre-addressed pre-paid courier sticker to the outside of the poly bin so the courier can have ready access.
- Drop it off at local NZ courier depot.

## Results and Invoicing

We will forward your results to the email address you provided on your Chain of Custody paperwork. As soon as we have completed reporting your results, we will send you an invoice via email. This invoice will include all the necessary payment details.

NOTE: ALS NZ does not offer consulting services regarding water sampling, treatment, or interpretation of results.

**General enquiries and support:** Ph: +64 7 974 4740 E: [ALSEnviro.Hamilton@alsglobal.com](mailto:ALSEnviro.Hamilton@alsglobal.com)  
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