

# Deviating Samples

## What is a deviating sample?

A deviating sample has not been correctly cared for, or the information received is not sufficient in order to ascertain if it has been correctly cared for. Examples are:

- No date sampled – samples deviate automatically
- Received in the incorrect container for the testing required
- Received outside of the recommended holding time
- Sample contains significant headspace

All of these factors may affect the quality of the sample and therefore in turn the quality of the analytical data produced. The analysis completed maintains its accreditation; however the results may be considered to be deviating and should be interpreted with caution.

At i2 Analytical we have worked hard to establish sample receipt and preservation methods which cause minimal fuss to our customers.

## Soil Samples

For chemical analysis, soil samples should be preserved by cooling, using frozen ice packs in the cool boxes or enviro sample kits. The sample environment should be kept below 8 °C where possible.

Samples should then be received (with testing instruction) at the main sample reception in Watford within the recommended time frame, for standard soil analysis this is within 7 days of sampling.

### Soil Vial

PTFE liner  
VOC analysis  
TPH < C10



### Soil Jar

Standard chemical testing, including organics



## Water Samples

Water samples should be preserved by cooling, using frozen ice packs in the cool boxes or enviro sample kits. The sample environment should be kept below 8 °C

Samples should then be received (with testing instruction) at the main sample reception in Watford within the recommended time frame. Our most time critical tests with the shortest holding times are listed below:

BOD	24 hours
pH	72 hours
Ammonia	72 hours

Sampling Day	Sample Received Day	Holding time OK?
Thursday	Friday	YES to all
Friday	Friday	YES to all
Friday	Monday	YES excl. BOD

## Containers:

- VOC and TPH bands below C10 require a **40 ml amber glass vial**, with **no headspace**
- Samples for BOD require a separate **300 ml amber glass bottle**, with **no headspace**
- Samples for general chemical testing, including organics must be received in **300 ml amber glass bottles**



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