



### **6. Total or Fecal Coliform Bacteria**

A coliform sample is collected in a 4-ounce, sterile, plastic container. It contains a single tablet of sodium thiosulfate which is a preservative required for this analysis. Open the sterile seal, lift the lid and fill the container to the 100-ml line with sample. Immediately close the lids, mix end-over-end three (3) times and refrigerate or put immediately on ice. **DO NOT TOUCH any inside surfaces or rims of the container.** Transport to the laboratory on ice (in the provided cooler). The **maximum** holding time for coliform is six (6) hours; it is best to collect the sample as early in the day as possible and deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible. Record on the chain-of-custody document the exact date and time of sample collection.

### **7. Volatile Organics**

A sample for volatiles is collected in three (3) 40-milliter glass vials with Teflon-lined septa. If residual chlorine is suspected in the water source, add sodium thiosulfate crystals to the vials prior to sampling. The vials contain HYDROCHLORIC ACID as a required preservative. Fill the vials VERY SLOWLY and carefully so as not to lose the preservative. Fill slowly until just BEFORE overflow. The surface tension in the water will cause the water to “stand” slightly above the top of the vial. Carefully place the cap on the vial so that NO AIR is trapped. Once capped, invert the vial slowly to look for air bubbles. If any bubbles are present, re-open the vial and carefully add additional sample until there are no air bubbles.

Once collected, immediately refrigerate or place on ice for transport to the lab as soon as possible. Record on the Chain of Custody the exact date and time of collection.

### **8. Other Chemically Preserved Containers – Plastic/Glass**

Other containers may contain acid (ie Nitric Acid, Sulfuric Acid) or caustic (ie Sodium Hydroxide) chemical preservation. The filling process may cause some fumes to be generated – **DO NOT FILL CONTAINER NEAR YOUR FACE!!!!**

Containers should be slowly and carefully filled to 90% of the total volume of the container. **DO NOT OVERFILL as the chemical preservation may cause harm to skin, clothing or other surfaces).**

Plastic containers with no chemical preservation should also be filled to 90% of the total volume.

Maximum holding times will vary for each analysis. Record on the Chain of Custody the exact date and time of collection.

### **9. Non-Preserved Containers – Glass – Semi-Volatiles, Pesticides/PCBs, Herbicides, TPH**

Samples to be tested for these parameters are collected in two (2) one-liter amber containers per sample. Slowly and carefully fill the container TO THE TOP. These samples must be refrigerated or put on ice and shipped to the laboratory as soon as possible. Record on the Chain of Custody the exact date and time of collection.