

SOIL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS BY METHOD 5035A

The State of Washington generally requires soil samples being analyzed for volatile compounds, be preserved by EPA method 5035A. The preferred technique is by methanol preservation at the time of collection for high level and by freezing for low level. This procedure differs from soil sampling where the soil sample is simply placed in a sample container.

To correctly perform the procedure the following should be noted:

- 1 Two pre-weighed “empty” 40ml VOA vials containing a small magnetic stir bar and one pre-weighed 40ml VOA vial containing a pre-measured and recorded amount of methanol are supplied for each sample.
- 2 A soil sampling syringe is supplied for each sample and one syringe holder. For each sample the syringe is placed in the holder in a position that will allow the maximum amount of soil to be collected. In this position the syringe will collect approximately 8-12 grams of soil.
- 3 The syringe and holder is then pressed into the soil to collect the sample. The holder is removed from the syringe and the syringe plunger is depressed to release the soil into the 40ml VOA vial containing the methanol.
- 4 The syringe is then reassembled and step 3 is repeated for the two empty vials. Steps 3 and 4 should be performed quickly so as to minimize the loss of volatile compounds. The vials should be carefully wiped, paying particular attention to the threads, and tightly capped.
- 5 Steps 3 and 4 are repeated, using a clean syringe, for each sample.
- 6 Because the vials are pre weighed at the laboratory, no tape or other items, which would affect the weight, should be added to the vials.
- 7 A four-ounce jar sample should also be collected in the normal way so that the solids determination may be completed. The solids determination may be performed from the soil sample from other non-volatile parameters if appropriate.

Note- Methanol is a toxic flammable solution. If samples will be shipped to the laboratory via couriers such as, UPS or Federal Express, DOT labeling requirements must be met. Contact the lab for additional information concerning labeling requirements.

Note- when completing the chain-of-custody please indicate the samples have been sampled per method 5035A.

