



# Jones Environmental Laboratory

## Sample Containers and Packaging

The use of correct sample containers is critical particularly for organic analyses. Unless you are very familiar with the analysis you are going to need, it is always best to ask the laboratory for advice on containers and quantities required. These will then be supplied to you (ready labeled) in cool boxes along with bubble wrap bags, ice packs, return labels, tape and Chain of Custody (C o C) forms. For consignments outside the EU a DEFRA import licence will also be included to allow samples through UK customs.

Having used all the correct containers, they must be well packaged to be returned to the laboratory. It is a waste of time and money if samples are received broken when 99% of the time breakages are avoidable by good packaging.

### Few basic rules:

- If glass is next to glass it has a higher chance of breaking.
- Use the bubble wrap bags the containers are supplied with.
- If there are not enough or you do not have any, newspaper is a good alternative.
- Samples should be kept cool on site and returned with frozen ice packs
- If you have no ice packs then frozen peas are a good alternative.
- If neither of the above are going to be possible let us know as we have some self activating ice packs.



### Filling containers:

- Fill all water vials for GRO/BTEX etc so there is no headspace, try and ensure no sediment is present.
- Fill 500ml glass bottle as full as possible, preferably with no sediment.
- Fill 60g VOC soil jars as full as possible and ensure lid is on securely.
- Fill 250g soil jars as full as possible.

If leachate analysis is required additional sample will be needed and a plastic tub supplied as well as glass jars.

If inorganic analysis is required on water samples then plastic bottles, some containing preservatives (relevant analysis will be on the label), will be supplied.

For further information please contact:

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