

Maine Environmental Laboratory

One Main Street, Yarmouth, ME 04096 Tel.: 207-846-6569 Fax: 207-846-9066 Email: melab@mel-lab.com

Ammonia Sample Pre-Treatment and Preservation

Samples collected for ammonia analyses require pretesting for the presence of residual chlorine before sample preservation. If chlorine is present in the sample, you must treat it with ascorbic acid powder (included) until chlorine can no longer be detected.

The pre-treatment kit includes potassium iodide test paper, ascorbic acid powder, a sampling container labeled "Extra Unpreserved," and a sampling container pre-filled with H₂SO₄ preservative.

Caution: H₂SO₄ is an acid. Always wear safety glasses and protective gloves when handling sampling containers.

TO TEST FOR RESIDUAL CHLORINE, wet potassium iodide test paper with unpreserved sample. A positive result for the presence of chlorine turns the test paper blue. If no chlorine is present, the test paper will not change color. Please document your test strip results below:

Negative (no color change); no residual chlorine is present in the sample.

Preservation Instructions:

1. Put sample into the container containing H₂SO₄ preservative.
Cool to ≤6°C before shipping or delivering to the laboratory.

Positive (blue); residual chlorine is present in the sample.

Preservation Instructions:

1. Fill the empty "Extra Unpreserved" container with sample.
2. Add a pea-sized amount of ascorbic acid powder (~ 0.25 grams) to the sample and mix well. Re-check sample for residual chlorine with new piece of potassium iodide test paper.
3. If pretest is still positive (blue), add another dose of ascorbic acid, mix well and re-check. Repeat process until test strip reads negative (no color change).
4. Carefully transfer corrected sample to container with H₂SO₄.
Cool to ≤6°C before shipping or delivering to the laboratory.

Please sign to document that samples were pre-treated as needed according to instructions:

Signature

Date

Please feel free to call us at 207-846-6569 if you have questions.