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TOC Sampling Instructions

60mL muffled amber vials are sent out of the lab containing 3 drops concentrated HCl preservative. This is done to prevent bacterial growth from occurring and to begin the process of eliminating inorganic carbon (IC) constituents.

When properly preserved and handled, the holding time is 28 days.

When filling the vials provided please observe the following:

1. *Care must be taken that the preservative is not washed out of the vial during filling.* The pH of the sample must be kept at 2 (or slightly below). If the HCl is washed out, then the sample pH must be adjusted as soon as possible. For this reason, our laboratory checks and adjusts the pH of each sample when it is received. However, it must be emphasized that field preservation is preferred.
2. The sample must be *refrigerated at 4°C* until it is analyzed.
3. The vial should be filled to the top, leaving *no head-space* in the vial.
4. The vial should be *capped immediately after filling*. The smooth Teflon side of the removable cap insert should be facing the sample.
5. Oils from fingers or residue from gloves must not be allowed to come into contact with the vial opening nor cap. Nothing should be allowed to enter the vial other than representative sample.
6. All glassware used in collection must be muffled to avoid contaminating the sample.

Please continue to refrigerate (or “ice”) the sample until it is delivered for analysis.