

METHOD FOR SAMPLING SLUDGE

Before sampling sludge be sure to put on gloves to minimize contact with the sludge. Persons collecting samples should wash their hands frequently and learn to avoid touching ones eyes or lips. The outside of sample containers should also be cleaned before delivery to the lab. With all the appropriate containers ready proceed to the sampling site. If you choose to use a bucket to pull the sample you should use a ladle to mix the sludge in the bucket, as well as to transfer it into the container(s) rather than pouring the sample into another container. Container size should be chosen according to the test to be performed. In most cases you will want to use a plastic container that is large enough for the sample to expand. If you are testing for Specific Oxygen Uptake Rate fill the container half full to allow oxygen respiration of the sample to continue. In cases where anaerobic tests are to be done contact laboratory personnel for more information. Recommended container sizes and handling are as follows:

Basic Manure & Sludge..... 250 ml, cool
Municipal & Industrial Sludge.....1 liter, cool
SOUR (Specific Oxygen Uptake Rate).....1 liter, cool
Fecal Coliform & % Solids.....250 ml, cool

When packaging the sample to send to the lab, wash the container and tape it shut to secure the lid.

Useful information to send to the laboratory with your sample includes; grab or composite sample, date and time sampled, name of sampler, type of analysis needed, who to bill, where to send the report, and the location from which the sample was taken. For a copy of guidance, contact US EPA, Development Office of Science Planning & Regulatory Evaluation, Center for Environmental Research Information, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.