# CLEANING / DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

##### Performance Criteria

##### The cleaning/decontamination procedures must ensure that all equipment that contacts a sample during sample collection is free from the analytes of interest and constituents that would interfere with the analytes of interest.

##### The detergents and other cleaning supplies cannot contribute analytes of interest or interfering constituents unless these are effectively removed during a subsequent step in the cleaning procedure.

##### The effectiveness of any cleaning procedure (including all cleaning reagents) must be supported by equipment blanks with reported non-detected values.

##### For toxicity tests, the effectiveness of any cleaning procedure must be supported by control samples with acceptable survival and reproduction or growth.

The cleaning procedures outlined in this SOP are designed to meet the above-mentioned performance criteria. Alternative cleaning reagents or procedures may be used. However, the organization must be prepared to demonstrate through documentation (i.e., company-written protocols and analytical records) and historical data (i.e., absence of analytes of interest in equipment blanks) that it consistently meets these performance criteria. Field quality control measures (see FQ 1210) must support the use of alternative reagents or procedures.

#### Cleaning Reagents

Recommendations for the types and grades of various cleaning supplies are outlined below. The recommended reagent types or grades were selected to ensure that the cleaned equipment is free from any detectable contamination.

##### Detergents: Use Luminox (or a non-phosphate solvent based equivalent), Liquinox (or a non-phosphate equivalent) or Alconox (or equivalent). EPA recommends Luminox (or equivalent) since solvent rinses can be eliminated from the cleaning process. Liquinox (or equivalent) may be substituted (solvent rinses, when applicable, must be performed), and Alconox (or equivalent) may be substituted if the sampling equipment will not be used to collect phosphorus or phosphorus-containing compounds.

##### Solvents

##### **Note:** **If the detergent Luminox (or equivalent) is used, solvent rinses are not required.**

##### Use pesticide grade isopropanol as the rinse solvent in routine equipment cleaning procedures. This grade of alcohol must be purchased from a laboratory supply vendor.

##### Other solvents, such as acetone or methanol, may be used as the final rinse solvent if they are pesticide grade. However, methanol is more toxic to the environment and acetone may be an analyte of interest for volatile organics. Do not use acetone if volatile organics are of interest.

##### Properly dispose of all wastes according to applicable regulations. Containerize all solvents (including rinsates) for on-site remediation or off-site disposal, as required.

##### Pre-clean equipment that is heavily contaminated (see FC 1120, section 3) with organic analytes with reagent grade acetone and hexane or other suitable solvents.

##### Use pesticide grade methylene chloride when cleaning sample containers.

##### Store all solvents away from potential sources of contamination (gas, copier supplies, etc.).

##### Analyte-free Water Sources

##### Analyte-free water is water in which all analytes of interest and all interferences are below method detection limits.

##### Maintain documentation (such as results from equipment blanks) to demonstrate the reliability and purity of analyte-free water source(s).

##### The source of the water must meet the requirements of the analytical method and must be free from the analytes of interest. In general, the following water types are associated with specific analyte groups:D

###### Milli-Q (or equivalent polished water): suitable for all analyses.

###### Organic-free: suitable for volatile and extractable organics.

###### Deionized water: not suitable for volatile and extractable organics if the analytes of interest are present in concentrations that affect the result.

###### Distilled water: not suitable for volatile and extractable organics, metals or ultra-trace metals.

##### Use analyte-free water for blank preparation and the final decontamination water rinse.

##### In order to minimize long-term storage and potential leaching problems, obtain or purchase analyte-free water just prior to the sampling event. If obtained from a source (such as a laboratory), fill the transport containers and use the contents for a single sampling event. Empty the transport container(s) at the end of the sampling event. If long-term storage of analyte-free water is necessary, see FC 1002, section 3.3.

##### Discard any analyte-free water that is transferred to a dispensing container (such as a carboy or wash bottle) at the end of each sampling day.

##### Acids

##### Reagent Grade Nitric Acid: 10 - 15% (one volume concentrated nitric acid and five volumes deionized water).

##### Use for the acid rinse unless nitrogen components (e.g., nitrate, nitrite, etc.) are to be sampled.

##### Reagent Grade Hydrochloric Acid: 10% hydrochloric acid (one volume concentrated hydrochloric and three volumes deionized water). Use when nitrogen components are to be sampled.

##### If samples for both metals and the nitrogen-containing components (see FC 1001, section 4.1.1 above) are collected with the equipment, use the hydrochloric acid rinse, or thoroughly rinse with hydrochloric acid after a nitric acid rinse.

##### If sampling for ultra trace levels of metals, use an ultra-pure grade acid

##### Freshly prepared acid solutions may be recycled during the sampling event or cleaning process. Dispose appropriately at the end of the sampling event, cleaning process or if acid is discolored or appears otherwise contaminated (e.g., floating particulates). Transport only the quantity necessary to complete the sampling event.

##### Dispose of any unused acids according to DEP and local ordinances.

#### Reagent Storage Containers

The contents of all containers must be clearly marked.

##### Detergents: Store in the original container or in a high density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene (PP) container.

##### Solvents

##### Store solvents to be used for cleaning or decontamination in the original container until use in the field. If transferred to another container for field use, the container must be either glass or fluoropolymer (FP).

##### Use dispensing containers constructed of glass, FP, or stainless steel. Note: if stainless steel sprayers are used, any components (including gaskets and transfer lines) that contact the solvents must be constructed of inert materials.

##### Analyte-free Water: Transport in containers appropriate to the type of water to be stored. If the water is commercially purchased (e.g., grocery store), use the original containers when transporting the water to the field. Containers made of glass, FP, PP, or polyethylene (PE) are acceptable.

##### Use glass, FP, PP or PE to transport organic-free sources of water on-site.

##### Dispense water from containers made of glass, FP, PE or PP.

##### Do not store water in transport containers before beginning a sampling event, unless satisfactory long-term storage of analyte-free water for a specified maximum storage time has been documented for the analytes of interest. The water should be replaced and the maximum storage time shortened if it is determined that the analyte-free water has been contaminated, e.g., by the analysis of field-QC blanks or other QC blanks that have been composed using the water stored in the container.

##### Store and dispense acids using containers made of glass, FP, PE or PP.

#### General Requirements

##### Before using any equipment, clean/decontaminate all sampling equipment (pumps, tubing, lanyards, split spoons, etc.) that are exposed to the sample.

##### Before installing, clean (or obtain as certified precleaned) all equipment that is dedicated to a single sampling point and remains in contact with the sample medium (e.g., permanently installed groundwater pump (see FS 2220, section 3.3.).

##### Clean this equipment any time it is removed for maintenance or repair.

##### Replace dedicated tubing if discolored or damaged.

##### Clean all equipment in a designated area having a controlled environment (house, laboratory, or base of field operations) and transport to the field precleaned and ready to use, unless otherwise justified.

##### Rinse all equipment with water after use, even if it is to be field-cleaned for other sites. Rinse equipment used at contaminated sites or used to collect in-process (e.g., untreated or partially treated wastewater) samples immediately with water.

##### Whenever possible, transport sufficient clean equipment to the field so that an entire sampling event can be conducted without the need for cleaning equipment in the field.

##### Segregate equipment that is only used once (i.e., not cleaned in the field) from clean equipment and return to the in-house cleaning facility to be cleaned in a controlled environment.

##### Protect decontaminated field equipment (including well sounders) from environmental contamination by securely wrapping and sealing with one of the following:

##### Aluminum foil (commercial grade is acceptable);

##### Untreated butcher paper; or

##### Clean, untreated, disposable plastic bags. Plastic bags may be used:

###### For all analyte groups except volatile and extractable organics;

###### For volatile and extractable organics, if the equipment is first wrapped in foil or butcher paper or if the equipment is completely dry.

##### Containerize all solvent rinsing wastes, detergent wastes and other chemical wastes requiring off-site or regulated disposal. Dispose of all wastes in conformance with applicable regulations.

## Cleaning Sample Collection Equipment

### On-site/In-field Cleaning

##### Cleaning equipment on-site is not recommended because:

##### Environmental conditions cannot be controlled.

##### Wastes (solvents and acids) must be containerized for proper disposal.

##### If performed, follow the appropriate cleaning procedure as outlined in FC 1130. Ambient temperature water may be substituted in the hot, sudsy water bath, and hot water rinses.

**Note: Properly dispose of all solvents and acids.**

##### Rinse all equipment with water after use, even if it is to be field-cleaned for other sites. Rinse equipment used at contaminated sites or used to collect in-process (e.g., untreated or partially treated wastewater) samples immediately with water.

### Heavily Contaminated Equipment

In order to avoid contaminating other samples, isolate heavily contaminated equipment from other equipment and thoroughly decontaminate the equipment before further use. Equipment is considered heavily contaminated if it:

###### Has been used to collect samples from a source known to contain significantly higher levels than background;

###### Has been used to collect free product; or

###### Has been used to collect industrial products (e.g., pesticides or solvents) or their by-products.

##### Cleaning heavily contaminated equipment in the field is not recommended.

##### On-site Procedures

##### Protect all other equipment, personnel and samples from exposure by isolating the equipment immediately after use.

##### At a minimum, place the equipment in a tightly sealed untreated plastic bag.

##### Do not store or ship the contaminated equipment next to clean, decontaminated equipment, unused sample containers, or filled sample containers.

##### Transport the equipment back to the base of operations for thorough decontamination.

##### If cleaning must occur in the field, and in order to document the effectiveness of the procedure, collect and analyze blanks on the cleaned equipment (see FQ 1000).

##### Cleaning Procedures

##### If organic contamination cannot be readily removed with scrubbing and a detergent solution, prerinse equipment by thoroughly rinsing or soaking the equipment in acetone.

##### Do not use solvent soaks or rinses if the material is clear acrylic.

##### Use hexane only if preceded and followed by acetone.

##### In extreme cases, it may be necessary to steam clean the field equipment before proceeding with routine cleaning procedures.

##### After the solvent rinses (and/or steam cleaning), use the appropriate cleaning procedure (see FC 1130).

##### Scrub, rather than soak all equipment with sudsy water.

##### If high levels of metals are suspected and the equipment cannot be cleaned without acid rinsing, soak the equipment in the appropriate acid. Do not use stainless steel equipment when heavy metal contamination is suspected or present, since stainless steel cannot be exposed to prolonged acid soaks.

##### If the field equipment cannot be cleaned utilizing these procedures, discard unless further cleaning with stronger solvents and/or oxidizing solutions is effective as evidenced by visual observation and blanks.

##### Clearly mark or disable all discarded equipment to discourage use.

### General Cleaning

Follow these procedures when cleaning equipment under controlled conditions. See FC 1110 for modifications if cleaning is performed on-site. Check manufacturer's instructions for cleaning restrictions and/or recommendations.

#### Procedure for FP, Stainless Steel and Glass Sampling Equipment

This procedure must be used when sampling for **ALL** analyte groups: extractable organics, metals, nutrients, etc., or if a single decontamination protocol is desired to clean all FP, stainless steel and glass equipment.

##### Rinse equipment with hot tap water.

##### Soak equipment in a hot, sudsy water solution (Liquinox or equivalent - see FC 1001, section 1).

##### If necessary, use a brush to remove particulate matter or surface film. When cleaning equipment for PFAS sampling, use a new brush.

##### Rinse thoroughly with hot tap water.

##### If samples for trace metals or inorganic analytes will be collected with the equipment and the equipment **is not** stainless steel, thoroughly rinse (wet all surfaces) with the appropriate acid solution (see FC 1001, section 4).

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water. Use enough water to ensure that all equipment surfaces are thoroughly flushed with water.

##### If samples for volatile or extractable organics will be collected, rinse with isopropanol. Wet equipment surfaces thoroughly with free-flowing solvent. Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water (see FC 1001, section 3).

##### Allow to air dry. Wrap and seal according to FC 1003, section 6 as soon as the equipment is air-dried.

##### If isopropanol is used, the equipment may be air-dried without the final analyte-free water rinse (see FC 1131, section 8 above); however, **the equipment must be completely dry before wrapping or use**.

##### Wrap clean sampling equipment per the procedure described in FC 1003, section 6.

#### General Cleaning Procedure for Plastic Sampling Equipment

##### Rinse equipment with hot tap water.

##### Soak equipment in a hot, sudsy water solution (Liqui-Nox or equivalent - see FC 1001, section 1).

##### If necessary, use a brush to remove particulate matter or surface film.

##### Rinse thoroughly with hot tap water.

##### Thoroughly rinse (wet all surfaces) with the appropriate acid solution (see FC 1001, section 4). Check manufacturer's instructions for cleaning restrictions and/or recommendations.

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water. Use enough water to ensure that all equipment surfaces are thoroughly flushed with water. Allow to air dry as long as possible.

##### Wrap clean sampling equipment per the procedure described in FC 1003, section 6.

#### Cleaning Procedure by Analyte Group

See Table FC 1000-1 for the procedures to be used to decontaminate equipment based on construction of sampling equipment, and analyte groups to be sampled.

### Automatic Samplers, Sampling Trains and Bottles

##### When automatic samplers are deployed for extended time periods, clean the sampler using the following procedures when routine maintenance is performed. Inspect deployed samplers prior to each use. At a minimum, change the tubing if it has become discolored or has lost elasticity (FC 1140, section 2.3 below).

##### Clean all automatic samplers (such as ISCO) as follows:

##### Wash the exterior and accessible interior portions of the automatic samplers (excluding the waterproof timing mechanisms) with laboratory detergent (see FC 1001, section 1) and rinse with tap water.

##### Clean the face of the timing case mechanisms with a clean, damp cloth.

##### Check all tubing (sample intake and pump tubing). Change the tubing at a minimum every six months (if used frequently) or if it has become discolored (i.e., affected by mold or algae) or if it has lost its elasticity.

##### See FC 1160, section 4 for the procedures associated with cleaning the tubing in the pump head.

##### Automatic Sampler Rotary Funnel and Distributor

##### Clean with hot sudsy water and a brush (see FC 1001, section 1 for appropriate detergent type).

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water.

##### Air dry.

##### Replace in sampler.

##### Sampler Metal Tube: Clean as outlined in FC 1160, section 5.

##### Reusable Glass Composite Sample Containers

##### If containers are used to collect samples that contain oil, grease or other hard to remove materials, it may be necessary to rinse the container several times with reagent-grade acetone before the detergent wash. If material cannot be removed with acetone, discard the container.

##### Wash containers following the procedure outlined in FC 1131 above. End with a final solvent rinse if organics are to be sampled.

##### Invert containers to drain and air dry for at least 24 hours.

##### Cap with aluminum foil, FP film or the decontaminated FP-lined lid.

##### After use, rinse with water in the field, seal with aluminum foil to keep the interior of the container wet, and return to the laboratory or base of operations.

##### **It is recommended to not recycle or reuse containers if**:

##### They were used to collect in-process (i.e., untreated or partially treated) wastewater samples at industrial facilities;

##### A visible film, scale or discoloration remains in the container after the cleaning procedures have been used; or

##### The containers were used to collect samples at pesticide, herbicide or other chemical manufacturing facilities that produce toxic or noxious compounds. Such containers must be properly disposed of (preferably at the facility) at the conclusion of the sampling activities.

##### If the containers described above are reused, check no less than 10% of the cleaned containers for the analytes of interest **before** use. If found to be contaminated, (i.e., constituents of interest are found at method detection levels or higher), then **discard the containers**.

##### Reusable Plastic Composite Sample Containers

##### Follow FC 1132.

##### Inspect the containers. Determine if the containers can be reused by the criteria in FC 1140, section 5 above.

##### Glass Sequential Sample Bottles for Automatic Sampler based for Sequential Mode

##### Clean glass sequential sample bottles to be used for collecting inorganic samples by using a laboratory dishwasher (see FC 1140, sections 7.1.1 through 7.1.3 below) or manually following the procedures in FC 1131.

##### Rinse with appropriate acid solution (see FC 1001, section 4).

##### Rinse thoroughly with tap water.

##### Wash in dishwasher at wash cycle, using laboratory detergent cycle, followed by tap and analyte-free water rinse cycles.

##### Replace bottles in covered, automatic sampler base; cover with aluminum foil for storage.

##### Rinse bottles in the field with water as soon as possible after sampling event.

##### Glass Sequential Sample Bottles (Automatic Sampler based for Sequential Mode) to be used for Collecting Samples for Organic Compounds

##### Use cleaning procedures outlined in FC 1131. Allow containers to thoroughly air dry before use.

##### Replace bottles in covered, automatic sampler base; cover with aluminum foil for storage.

##### Bottle Siphons used to Transfer Samples from Composite Containers

##### Rinse tubing with solvent and dry overnight in a drying oven.

##### Cap ends with aluminum foil and/or FP film for storage.

##### Seal in plastic for storage and transport.

##### Flush siphon thoroughly with sample before use.

##### Reusable FP Composite Mixer Rods

##### Follow procedures outlined in FC 1131.

##### Wrap in aluminum foil for storage.

### Filtration Equipment

##### Dissolved Constituents using in-line, Molded and Disposable Filter Units

##### Peristaltic Pump

##### Clean the pump following procedures in FC 1170, section 2.2.

##### Clean the pump head tubing following FC 1160, section 4.

##### If FP tubing is used, clean following the procedures in FC 1160, section 3.

##### Clean other tubing types such as PE according to the appropriate procedures listed in FC 1160, section 7.

##### Other Equipment Types (e.g., pressurized FP bailer)

##### Follow the appropriate cleaning regimen specified in FC 1131 through FC 1132 for other types of equipment that utilize in-line, molded and disposable filters.

##### Dissolved Constituents using Non-disposable Filtration Units (e.g., syringes, "tripod assembly")

##### Stainless Steel or Glass Units

##### Follow FC 1131, assembling and applying pressure to the apparatus after each rinse step (water and acid) to drive rinsing solution through the porous filter holder in the bottom of the apparatus.

##### Remove and clean any transfer tubing according to the appropriate cleaning procedures (see FC 1160).

##### Assemble the unit and cap both the pressure inlet and sample discharge lines (or whole unit if a syringe) with aluminum foil to prevent contamination during storage.

##### If the unit will **not** be used to filter volatile or extractable organics, seal the unit in an untreated plastic bag to prevent contamination.

##### Reusable In-Line Filter Holders

##### Clean, using FC 1131, (if FP, glass or stainless steel) or FC 1132 (if plastic) assembling and applying pressure to the apparatus after each rinse step (water and acid) to drive rinsing solution through the porous filter holder in the bottom of the apparatus.

##### Assemble the unit and wrap with aluminum foil to prevent contamination during storage.

##### If the unit will **not** be used to filter volatile or extractable organics, seal the unit in an untreated plastic bag to prevent contamination.

##### Filters

##### Do not clean filters. Instructions for rinsing the filters prior to use are discussed in the applicable sampling SOPs (FS 2000 - FS 8000).

### Sample Tubing Decontamination

##### Check tubing:

##### For discoloration: Remove discolored tubing from use until it can be cleaned. If the discoloration cannot be removed, discard the tubing.

##### For elasticity (if used in a peristaltic-type pump): Discard any tubing that has lost its elasticity.

##### Transport all tubing to the field in precut, **precleaned** sections.

##### Fluoropolymer, Polyethylene and Polypropylene Tubing

##### New Tubing: Follow this procedure unless the manufacturer/supplier provides certification that the tubing is clean.

##### Fluoropolymer

##### Rinse outside of tubing with pesticide-grade solvent (see FC 1001, section 2).

##### Flush inside of tubing with pesticide-grade solvent.

##### Dry overnight in drying oven or equivalent (zero air, nitrogen, etc.).

##### Polyethylene and Polypropylene

##### Clean the exterior and interior of the tubing by soaking in hot, sudsy water.

##### Thoroughly rinse the exterior and interior of the tubing with tap water, followed by analyte-free water.

##### Reused Tubing Use the following procedure for in-lab cleaning. **Field cleaning is not recommended**:

##### Clean the exterior of the tubing by soaking in hot, sudsy water (see FC 1001, section 1) in a stainless steel sink (or equivalent non-contaminating material). Use a brush to remove any particulates, if necessary.

##### Use a small bottle brush and clean the inside of the tubing ends where the barbs are to be inserted or cut 1-2 inches from the ends of the tubing after cleaning.

##### Rinse tubing exterior and ends liberally with tap water.

##### Rinse tubing surfaces and ends with the appropriate acid solution (see FC 1001, section 4), tap water, isopropanol (see FC 1001, section 2), and finally analyte-free water. Note: Eliminate the isopropanol rinse for PE or PP tubing.

##### Place tubing on fresh aluminum foil or clean PE sheeting. Connect all of the precut lengths of tubing with FP inserts or barbs.

##### Cleaning configuration:

##### Place cleaning reagents: [sudsy water (see FC 1001, section 1); acid (see FC 1001, section 4); isopropanol (see FC 1001, section 2)] in an appropriately cleaned container (2-liter glass jar is recommended).

##### Place one end of the FP tubing into the cleaning solution.

##### Attach the other end of the FP tubing set to the influent end of a pump.

##### Recycle the effluent from the pump by connecting a length of FP tubing from the effluent to the glass jar with the cleaning reagents.

##### Recycling as described above may be done for all reagents listed in FC 1160, section 3.2.6.1 above, **except** the final isopropanol rinse and the final analyte-free water rinse. Disconnect the tubing between the effluent end of the pump and the jar of cleaning reagents.

##### Containerize isopropanol in a waste container for proper disposal.

##### Analyte-free water may be discarded down the drain.

##### Using the above configuration described in FS 1160, section 3.2.6 above:

##### Pump hot, sudsy water through the connected lengths. Allow the pump to run long enough to pump at least three complete tubing volumes through the tubing set.

##### Using the same procedure, successively pump tap water, the acid solution(s), tap water, isopropanol, and finally analyte-free water through the system.

##### Leave the FP inserts or barbs between the precut lengths and cap or connect the remaining ends.

##### After the interior has been cleaned as described in FC 1160, section 3.2.7 above, rinse the exterior of the tubing with analyte-free water.

##### Wrap the connected lengths in aluminum foil or untreated butcher paper and store in a clean, dry area until use.

##### Flexible Tubing used in Pump Heads of Automatic Samplers and other Peristaltic Pumps

Replace tubing after each sampling point if samples are collected through the tubing. Unless the pump is deployed to collect samples from the same location over a long period of time, remove and wash the tubing after each sampling event (see FC 1140, section 1).

##### Flush tubing with hot tap water then sudsy water (see FC 1001, section 1).

##### Rinse thoroughly with hot tap water.

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water.

##### If used to collect metals samples, flush the tubing with an appropriate acid solution (see FC 1001, section 4), followed by thorough rinsing with analyte-free water. If used to collect both metals and nitrogen components use hydrochloric acid (see FC 1001, section 4.1.1).

##### Install tubing in peristaltic pump or automatic sampler.

##### Cap both ends with aluminum foil or equivalent.

**Note: Change tubing at specified frequencies as part of routine preventative maintenance.**

##### Stainless Steel Tubing

Clean the exterior and interior of stainless steel tubing as follows:

##### Using sudsy water (see FC 1001, section 1), scrub the interior and exterior surfaces.

##### Rinse with hot tap water.

##### Rinse with analyte-free water.

##### If volatile or extractable organics are to be sampled, rinse all surfaces with isopropanol (see FC 1001, section 2). Use enough solvent to wet all surfaces with free flowing solvent.

##### Allow to air dry or thoroughly rinse with analyte-free water.

##### Glass Tubing

##### Use new glass tubing.

##### If volatile or extractable organics are to be sampled, rinse with isopropanol (see FC 1001, section 2).

##### Air dry for at least 24 hours.

##### Wrap in aluminum foil or untreated butcher paper to prevent contamination during storage.

##### Discard tubing after use.

##### Miscellaneous Non-Inert Tubing Types (Tygon, rubber, PVC, etc.)

##### New Tubing

##### As a general rule, new tubing may be used without preliminary cleaning.

##### Protect new tubing from potential environmental contamination by wrapping in aluminum foil and sealing in untreated plastic bags or keep in the original sealed packaging until use.

##### If new tubing is exposed to potential contamination, rinse the exterior and interior tubing surfaces with hot tap water followed by a thorough rinse with analyte-free water.

##### If new tubing is to be used to collect samples, thoroughly rinse the tubing with sample water (i.e., pump sample water through the tubing) before collecting samples.

##### Reused Tubing

##### Flush tubing with sudsy solution of hot tap water and laboratory detergent (see FC 1001, section 1).

##### Rinse exterior and interior thoroughly with hot tap water.

##### Rinse exterior and interior thoroughly with analyte-free water.

##### If used to collect only metals samples, flush the tubing with nitric acid (see FC 1001, section 4.1), followed by a thorough rinse with analyte-free water.

##### If used to collect metals and nitrogen-containing compounds, see FC 1001, section 4.3.

##### Cap ends in aluminum foil and store in clean, untreated plastic bags to prevent contamination during storage and transport.

### PUMPS

##### Submersible Pumps

##### Pumps used for Purging and Sampling Metals and/or Volatile and Extractable Organics

##### Construction of pump body and internal mechanisms (bladders, impellers, etc.), including seals and connections, must follow Tables FS 1000-1, FS 1000-2 and FS 1000-3.

##### Tubing material must follow Tables FS 1000-1, FS 1000-2 and FS 1000-3.

##### Clean pump exterior following FC 1132. Note:omit the solvent rinse if the pump body is constructed of plastic (e.g., ABS, PVC, etc.).

##### Clean the pump internal cavity and mechanism as follows:

##### If used only for purging, thoroughly flush the pump with water before purging the next well.

##### When used for purging and sampling, completely disassemble the pump (if practical) and decontaminate between each well.

##### When used for purging and sampling and the pump cannot be (practicably) disassembled, then clean the internal cavity/mechanism by pumping several gallons of sudsy water (see FC 1001, section 1), followed by several gallons of tap water, and finally, several gallons of analyte-free water.

##### If multiple sampling points are located in an area that is not accessible by a vehicle, and it is difficult to return to the vehicle for cleaning or to transport all cleaning materials to the staging location, at a minimum thoroughly rinse the pump with water.

##### Refer to FC 1160, section 3 to clean FP tubing.

##### Refer to FC 1160, section 5 for stainless steel tubing.

##### Clean other types of tubing according to FC 1160, sections 6 and 7.

##### Pumps used for Purging and Sampling all Analytes except Metals, Volatile and Extractable Organics

##### Pump construction: no restrictions.

##### Pump tubing material: no restrictions.

##### Scrub the exterior of the pump with appropriate metal-free, phosphate-free or ammonia-free detergent solution.

##### Rinse the exterior with tap water and analyte-free water.

##### Rinse the interior of the pump and tubing by pumping tap or analyte-free water through the system using a clean bucket or drum.

##### Above-ground Pumps used for Purging and Sampling

##### Pumps used only for Purging

##### The exterior of the pump must be free of oil and grease.

##### Select tubing according to Tables FS 1000-1, FS 1000-2 and FS 1000-3.

##### Clean the tubing that contacts the formation water according to the appropriate protocol for construction materials specified in FC 1160.

##### Pumps used for Sampling

##### Clean the exterior of the pump with a detergent solution followed by a tap water rinse. Use clean cloths or unbleached paper towels that have been moistened with the appropriate solution to wipe down the pump.

##### Select tubing according to Tables FS 1000-1, FS 1000-2 and FS 1000-3.

##### Clean the tubing that contacts the formation water according to the appropriate protocol for construction materials specified in FC 1160.

### Analyte-Free Water Containers

This section pertains to containers that are purchased to transport, store and dispense analyte-free water. It does not apply to water that has been purchased in containers. See FC 1002, section 3 for appropriate construction materials.

##### New Containers

##### Wash containers and caps according to FC 1131, omitting the solvent rinse if plastic (PE or PP) containers are being cleaned.

##### Cap with FP film or the bottle cap. The bottle cap must be composed of the same material as the container and cannot be lined.

##### Reused Containers

##### Immediately after emptying, cap with aluminum foil, FP film or the container cap.

##### Wash the exterior of the container with lab-grade detergent solution (see FC 1001, section 1) and rinse with analyte-free water.

##### Rinse the interior thoroughly with analyte-free water.

##### Invert and allow to drain and dry.

### Ice Chests and Shipping Containers

##### Wash the exterior and interior of all ice chests with laboratory detergent (see FC 1001, section 1) after each use.

##### Rinse with tap water and air dry before storing.

##### If the ice chest becomes severely contaminated with concentrated waste or other toxic or hazardous materials clean as thoroughly as possible, render unusable, and properly dispose.

## Field Instruments and Drilling Equipment

### Field Instruments (Tapes, Meters, etc.)

Follow manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning instruments. At a minimum:

##### Wipe down equipment body, probes, and cables with lab-grade detergent solution (see FC 1001, section 1). Check manufacturer's instructions for recommendations and/or restrictions on cleaning.

##### Rinse thoroughly with tap water.

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water.

##### Store equipment according to the manufacturer's recommendation or wrap equipment in aluminum foil, untreated butcher paper or untreated plastic bags to eliminate potential environmental contamination.

### Soil Boring Equipment

This section pertains only to equipment that is not used to collect samples. Clean split spoons, bucket augers and other sampling devices according to FC 1131.

##### Remove oil, grease, and hydraulic fluid from the exterior of the engine and power head, auger stems, bits and other associated equipment with a power washer or steam jenny or wash by hand with a brush and sudsy waster (no degreasers).

##### Rinse thoroughly with tap water.

### Well Casing Cleaning

These are recommended procedures for cleaning well casing and riser pipes. Use procedures specified by a DEP contract, order, permit, or rule, if different or more stringent than the procedures outlined below.

##### DEP recommends only using casing that is designed for subsurface environmental groundwater monitoring.

##### Casing that has been contaminated with grease, hydraulic fluid, petroleum fuel, etc. may require additional cleaning or deemed unusable.

##### All casings and riser pipes should be cleaned before installation, unless the casing is received wrapped and ready for installation:

##### Steam clean all casings and riser pipes except PVC. Steam cleaning criteria shall meet the following: water pressure: 2500 psi; water temperature: 200°F.

##### Rinse thoroughly with water free of the analytes of interest.

## Sample Containers

### Obtaining Clean Containers

##### Obtain clean sample containers in one of three ways:

##### From commercial vendors as precleaned containers. The cleaning grades must meet EPA analyte specific requirements. Keep all records for these containers (lot numbers, certification statements, date of receipt, etc.) and document the container’s intended uses;

##### From internal groups within the organization that are responsible for cleaning and maintaining containers according to the procedures outlined in FC 1320; or

##### From a subcontracted laboratory that is accredited under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP).

##### The contractor must verify that the laboratory follows the container cleaning procedures outlined in FC 1320.

##### If the laboratory cleaning procedures are different, the contractor must require that the laboratory use the following cleaning procedures or provide documentation and historical records to show that their in-house procedure produces containers that are free from the analytes of interest.

### Container Cleaning Procedures

##### Refer to Table FC 1000-2. Follow the cleaning steps in the order specified in the chart.

##### Cleaning procedures that are different from those outlined in FC 1320 may be used as long as blanks collected in the containers are free from the analytes of interest and any analytical interferences and the cleaning procedures are supported by historical and continuing documentation.

##### Inspect all containers before cleaning. **It is recommended to** **not recycle or reuse containers if**:

##### Containers were used to collect in-process (i.e., untreated or partially treated) wastewater samples at industrial facilities;

##### A visible film, scale or discoloration remains in the container after the cleaning procedures have been used; or

##### Containers were used to collect samples at pesticide, herbicide or other chemical manufacturing facilities that produce toxic or noxious compounds. Such containers shall be properly disposed of (preferably at the facility) at the conclusion of the sampling activities.

##### If the containers described above are reused, check no less than 10% of the cleaned containers for the analytes of interest **before** use. If found to be contaminated (i.e., analytes of interest are found at MDL levels or higher), **discard the containers**.

## Documentation

Document cleaning procedures described below for the indicated activities. See FD 1000 for additional information about required records and retention of documents.

### Field Equipment

##### In-field Cleaning

##### Initially identify the procedures that are used to clean equipment in the field by SOP numbers and dates of usage.

##### Record the date and time that equipment was cleaned.

##### In-House Cleaning

##### Retain any cleaning certificates, whether from a laboratory or commercial vendor.

##### Identify the procedure(s) that are used to clean equipment by the SOP number and dates of usage.

##### Record the date that the equipment was cleaned.

### Sample Containers

##### Organizations that order precleaned containers must retain the packing slips, and lot numbers of each shipment, any certification statements provided by the vendor and the vendor cleaning procedures.

##### Organizations that clean containers must maintain permanent records of the following:

##### Procedure(s) used to clean containers by SOP number and dates of usage.

##### If containers are certified clean by the laboratory the laboratory must record:

###### Type of container;

###### Date cleaned;

###### SOP used;

###### Person responsible for cleaning;

###### Lot number (date of cleaning may be used) of the batch of containers that were cleaned using the same reagent lots and the same procedure;

###### The results of quality control tests that were run on lot numbers; and

###### Any additional cleaning or problems that were encountered with a specific lot.

### Reagents and other Cleaning Supplies

Maintain a record of the lot number with the inclusive dates of use for all acids, solvents, and other cleaning supplies.

Appendix FC 1000

Tables, Figures and Forms

Table FC 1000-1 Procedures for Decontamination at the Base of Operations or On-site

Table FC 1000-2 Container Cleaning Procedures

| **Construction Material** | **Analyte Group Sampled** | **SOP Reference** | **Base of Operations** | **On-Site** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FP or Glass | All | FC 1131 | Follow as written | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution |
| FP or Glass | Extractable & Volatile Organics  Petroleum Hydrocarbons | FC 1131 | May omit acid rinse | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution  May omit acid rinse |
| FP or Glass | Metals[[1]](#endnote-1)  Radionuclides  For ultra trace metals, refer to FS 8200 | FC 1131 | May omit solvent rinse | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution  May omit solvent rinse |
| FP or Glass | Inorganic Nonmetallics  Physical & Aggregate Properties  Aggregate Organics  Biologicals  Volatile Inorganics | FC 1131 | May omit solvent rinse | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |
| FP or Glass | Microbiological – Viruses  Microbiological - Bacteria | FC 1131 | Omit solvent and acid rinses | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |
| Metallic (stainless steel, brass, etc.) | All  Extractable & Volatile Organics  Petroleum Hydrocarbons | FC 1131 | Omit the acid rinse | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution  Omit the acid rinse |
| Metallic (stainless steel, brass, etc.) | Metals  Radionuclides | FC 1131 | Omit the acid rinse  May omit the solvent rinse | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution  Omit the acid rinse  May omit the solvent rinse |
| Metallic (stainless steel, brass, etc.) | Inorganic Nonmetallics  Physical & Aggregate Properties  Aggregate Organics  Biologicals  Volatile Inorganics | FC 1131 | Omit solvent rinse  May omit the acid rinse | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |
| Metallic (stainless steel, brass etc.) | Microbiological – Viruses  Microbiological - Bacteria | FC 1131 | Omit solvent and acid rinses | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |
| Stainless Steel | PFAS | FC 1131 | Omit the acid rinse | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses  Omit the acid rinse  Rinse at least twice with PFAS-free water  Conduct a final rinse with PFAS-free water by spraying equipment in air (not in previously used rinse water) |
| Plastic (PE, PP, PVC, silicone, acrylic | Volatile and Extractable Organics | FC 1132 | Follow as written. | May substitute ambient temperature water for the hot water rinses and hot detergent solution |
| Plastic (PE, PP, PVC, silicone, acrylic) | Inorganic Nonmetallics  Physical & Aggregate Properties  Aggregate Organics  Biologicals  Volatile Inorganics | FC 1132 | May omit the acid rinse | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |
| Plastic (PE, PP, PVC, silicone, acrylic) | Microbiological – Viruses  Microbiological - Bacteria | FC 1132 | Omit acid rinse | Rinse several times with water  Rinse several times with sample water from the next sampling location |

| **ANALYSIS / ANALYTE GROUP** | CLEANING STEPS  **See Description Below** |
| --- | --- |
| Extractable Organics | 1, 2, 4, 6 (not required if Luminox,or equivalent is used), (5 and 7 optional), 11 |
| Volatile Organics | 1, 2, 4, (6 optional, methanol only), 7 |
| Metals | 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11 \*\*  \*\*Procedures to clean containers for ultra-trace metals are found in FS 8200 |
| Inorganic Nonmetallics, Radionuclides, Physical and Aggregate Properties, Aggregate Inorganics, and Volatile Inorganics | 1, 2, 3\*, 4, 8, 11  \* For nutrients, replace nitric acid with hydrochloric acid, or use a hydrochloric acid rinse after the nitric acid rinse. See FC 1001, section 4 |
| Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Oil and Grease | 1, 2, 3, 4, (5, 6, 7 optional), 11 |
| Microbiological (all) | 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 11 |
| Toxicity Tests (Includes Bioassays) | 1, 2, 10, 2, 4, 6.1, (10 optional), 11 |
| PFAS | 1 (recommend using new brush each time), 2, 4, (6 optional), 4, 8 |

**NOTE**: Steps 1 and 2 may be omitted when cleaning new, uncertified containers.

##### Wash with hot tap water and a brush using a suitable laboratory-grade detergent:

##### Volatile and Extractable Organics, Petroleum Hydrocarbon, Oil and Grease: Luminox, Liquinox, Alconox or equivalent;

##### Inorganic nonmetallics: Liquinox or equivalent;

##### Metals: Liquinox or Microbiological equivalents:

##### Microbiologicals (all): Must pass an inhibitory residue test.

##### Rinse thoroughly with hot tap water.

##### Rinse with 10% nitric acid solution.

##### Rinse thoroughly with analyte-free water (deionized or better).

##### Rinse thoroughly with pesticide-grade methylene chloride.

##### Rinse thoroughly with pesticide-grade isopropanol, acetone or methanol.

##### For bioassays, use only acetone, and only when containers are glass.

##### Oven dry at 103°C to 125°C for at least 1 hour.

##### VOC vials and containers must remain in the oven in a contaminant-free environment until needed. They should be capped in a contaminant-free environment just prior to dispatch to the field.

##### Invert and air-dry in a contaminant-free environment.

##### Sterilize containers:

##### Plastic: 60 min at 170°C, loosen caps to prevent distortion.

##### Glass: 15 min at 121°C.

##### Rinse with 10% hydrochloric acid.

##### Cap tightly and store in a contaminant-free environment until use. Do not use glass if collecting samples for boron or silica.

1. Do not use glass if collecting samples for boron or silica. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)