

Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup

Sewer/Septic Sampling Sequence

1. Prior to sampling, sufficiently excavate the septic tank to determine whether the tank consists of one or two chambers.
2. Remove the access cover from the first (or only) chamber and locate the outlet baffle.
3. Move any floating surface matter away from the insertion point of the sludge sampler. Do not collect any matter in the sludge sampler.
 - a. For sampling locations in tanks with one chamber, collect samples from the baffle on the outlet end of the chamber.
 - b. For sampling locations in tanks with two chambers, collect samples from the baffle on the outlet end of chamber one.
4. Follow instructions for correct usage of a sludge sampler.
5. Insert the sludge sampler into the tank, lowering it until you hit the bottom.
6. Trap the sample inside the sludge sampler.
7. Remove the sludge sampler and fill two 40 mL vials.
8. Samples may be taken without preservative or with preservative in the vial. Sampling procedure is determined by the sampler's confidence and ability to maintain sample integrity.
9. Place sample containers in a cooler with enough ice or ice packs to maintain a temperature of 4° C.
10. Replace the access cover.

