

THE SAMPLER

Kiff Analytical, LLC's Monthly Bulletin

May 2012

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Welcome to the May 2012 Edition of THE SAMPLER

How to Properly Pack and Ship Samples

In this edition of THE SAMPLER, Michelle Spencer, our Sample Receiving Team Lead, gives an overview of how to properly pack and ship a variety of sample types.

Packing your cooler correctly helps ensure that your samples arrive safely and within acceptable temperature range.

In general, all samples (except air samples) should be shipped with coolant. Wet ice works best. Re-usable or blue ice often does not keep samples cold enough and only provides cooling to the samples in direct contact with it. Add a bottom layer of wet ice to the cooler before placing the samples into it.

VOAs should be packed together tightly to minimize movement during shipping and safeguard them from breakage. Place the VOAs for each individual sample set into a sandwich size Ziploc bag, making sure all VOAs face the same direction. Pack as many of these small Ziploc bags that can fit upright into a large gallon size Ziploc bag. Shipping VOAs in foam holders or VOA boxes is not recommended as these insulate the samples from the coolant.



Soil samples should be placed in Ziploc bags to protect against water intrusion. If soil sleeves are too big to fit in a Ziploc, they may be put into a large trash bag which can then be taped closed to keep out any water from melted ice. Soil in glass jars should be bagged separately to provide secondary containment in case of breakage.

Polyethylene and Amber bottles (a.k.a. Polys and Ambers) should be packed upright in the cooler. This will keep them from shifting during shipment and avoid breakage. As Amber bottles are fragile, wrap each one in bubble wrap or similar protective packing material. If necessary, add packing material between containers to secure them.

MAY EVENTS



May
 Kiff Analytical's 15th anniversary!
 See our time-line below the article.

May 1st
 May Day

Earth laughs in flowers.
 ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

May 4th

[International Firefighter's Day](#)

May 5th
 Cinco de Mayo

May 6th-12th
[Drinking Water Week](#)

May 9th

Sacramento GRA meeting. For more information on this, or for other GRA branch meetings, visit <http://grac.org/events.asp>

May 13th

Happy Mother's Day!

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. ~Author Unknown



May 20th
[Annular Solar Eclipse](#)

May 28th

Memorial Day, remember those who have fought for our freedom.



Kiff Analytical will be closed on this day. We will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 29th



Professional Meetings

We do not always know the meeting dates before THE SAMPLER is sent out but you can check these websites periodically for more information:

[Sacramento PEMA](#)
[Bay Area PEMA](#)
[Southern California PEMA](#)
[NEBC](#)
[Sacramento SAME](#)



Once all of the containers have been arranged in the cooler, add wet ice between samples to fill in any gaps and prevent further movement. Always finish off with a layer of wet ice on top of the samples. Temperature exceptions often occur when samples are transported on top of wet ice with no covering layer of ice. As cold air sinks while warm air rises, having the ice on top will cool the samples more evenly than just having ice below the samples.

EnCore samplers may be shipped with dry ice. If they are, make sure the dry ice is on top of the EnCore samplers and do not pack any other samples in the cooler with the dry ice. Shipping water samples in the same cooler can cause them to freeze and break.

When shipping product samples, or extremely contaminated samples, it is best to ship them in their own cooler to avoid contamination of other samples. The same is true when shipping methanol preserved containers if other containers for the project are going to be analyzed for methanol.

Air samples should be shipped in either a dry cooler or a sturdy box to prevent damage. Make sure the container is big enough to fit all the Tedlar bag samples without crushing them.

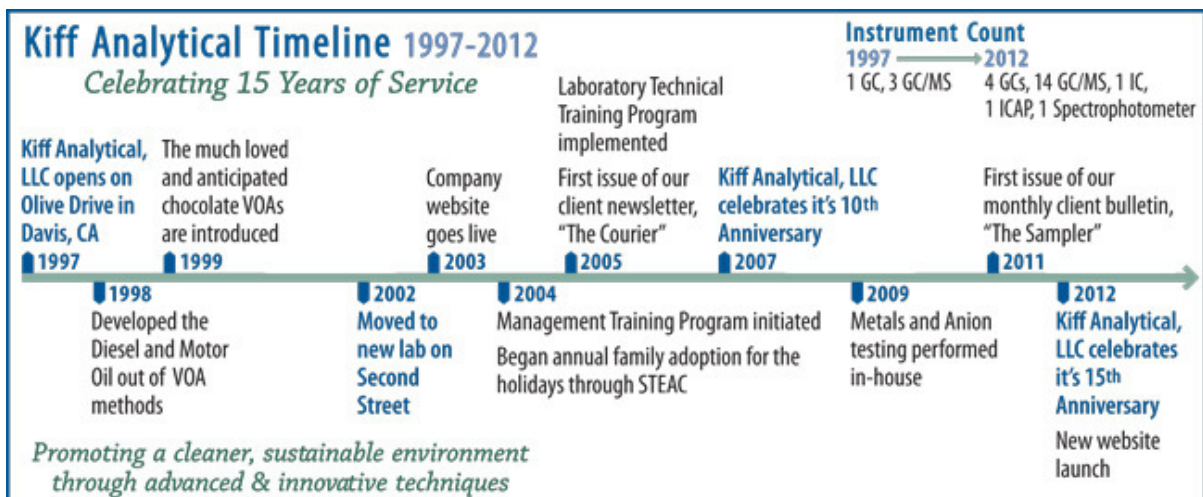
Place the COC in a Ziploc bag. Make sure to seal the Ziploc bag and tape it to the inside top of the cooler. This will keep it from falling to the bottom of the cooler and getting soaked by wet ice. Secure the cooler lid with tape.

If using custody seals, they should span the cover and body of the cooler so that it is not possible to open the cooler without breaking the seal. It is best to tape over paper seals to ensure that they cannot be removed and reapplied. Custody seals should have the signature or initials of the sender and indicate the date that the cooler was sealed.

If shipping samples with a short hold time or on a rush turnaround time, call before sampling so that the lab can be prepared for their arrival. In general, shipping using Priority Overnight (FedEx) or Sunrise (OnTrac) service is sufficient, but in the case of short hold time or rush turnaround time samples, Client Services or Sample Receiving might advise you to ship for earlier delivery based on project-specific requirements.

To view or download a single page summary of these tips see our document titled "[How to Pack a Cooler](#)". This and other useful documents can be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients for the last 15 years. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and we are looking forward to building our relationships with each of you even further in the coming years!



MAY TRIVIA

MAY is [American Wetlands Month](#)

RED POPPIES: In 1915, Moina Michael started the tradition of wearing red poppies on **Memorial Day** when she was inspired by the poem "[In Flanders Fields](#)" and wrote her own poem:

*We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor
led, It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then sold red poppies to her friends with the proceeds going to benefit servicemen in need.



*They fell, but o'er their glorious
grave floats free the banner of
the cause they died to save.
~Francis Marion Crawford*

*The dead soldier's silence sings
our national anthem. ~Aaron
Kilbourn*

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

New Website!

Visit our new website at www.kiffanalytical.com. Same web address - new look! If you have any suggestions (resources or information that you would like to see on the website or how to make the website even more user-friendly) we would be happy to hear them. Send us an email at thesampler@kiffanalytical.com, give us a call at 530-297-4800 or use our new [on-line contact form!](#)

Did you know?

Kiff Analytical performs the following tests in-house:

Orthophosphate by SM 4500-P E

Ferrous Iron by SM 3500-Fe D

Hexavalent Chromium by EPA 218.6, 7199 and 7196A

Metals by EPA 6010 and 200.7

Anions by EPA 300

If you would like a comprehensive list of in-house tests please contact us at inbox@kiffanalytical.com or at 530-297-4800.

RECIPE of the MONTH

Strawberry Spinach Salad

submitted by Mary Jo Menke-Wright



2 tablespoons sesame seeds
1 tablespoon poppy seeds
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
1/4 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon minced onion
10 ounces baby spinach - if desired torn into bite sized pieces
1 quart strawberries - cleaned, hulled and sliced
1/4 cup almonds, blanched and slivered (optional)

In a medium bowl, whisk together the sesame seeds, poppy seeds, sugar, olive oil, vinegar, paprika, Worcestershire sauce and onion. Cover, and chill for one hour.

In a large bowl, combine the spinach, strawberries and almonds. Pour dressing over salad, and toss. Refrigerate 10 to 15 minutes before serving. Serves 4.