

Environmental Laboratory Trip Blank Policy

What are trip blanks?

A trip blank consists of a sample container or set of containers filled at the laboratory with water demonstrated to be target analyte free. The trip blank travels to the sampling site with the empty sample containers and returns from the site with the filled sample containers.

Why are trip blanks used?

By duplicating the handling, environment and storage that the sample containers undergo, trip blanks are used to measure possible contamination of samples. Trip blanks are required for certain drinking water methods including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and EDB & DBCP. A minimum of two trip blanks containers must accompany submissions when required.

How are trip blanks used?

Trip blanks must not be opened in the field. They must return to the laboratory with the set of containers they accompanied into the field.

Trip blanks should be submitted to the laboratory in the same manner as routine samples. They are to be listed on the same Chain of Custody (COC) form as the samples they are associated with. All trip blanks containers must be unique identified.

When do the trip blanks expire?

All trip blank containers should have an expiration date on the label provided by MDH. All associated samples must be collected prior to the trip blank expiration date.

How to properly label trip blank containers.

The trip blank containers must be labeled with unique identifying information that clearly links the container(s) to one, and only one, sample point on the COC. It is required that all trip blanks have a collection date and time identified on the COC. The laboratory recommends using the same collection date and time of the first sample the trip blank is associated with.

Trip Blank: 40 mL VOC Amber Vial, AA/MA
Pre-preserved TB/VOC: 524
Contains: 25 mg C6H8O6/200 mg C4H4O4
<Empty>

Loc. ID#: Trip Blank
Sample Point 01/01/24 1200



Fill Date: 12/25/23
LOT#: MDH-1115
EXP: 05-02-2024

Trip Blank: 40 mL VOC Vial
Pre-preserved TB/VOC: EDB / DBCP
Contains: 3 mg Na2S2O3
<Empty>

Loc. ID#: Trip Blank
Sample Point: 01/01/24 1200



Fill Date: 12/25/23
LOT#: MDH-1115
EXP: 05-02-2024