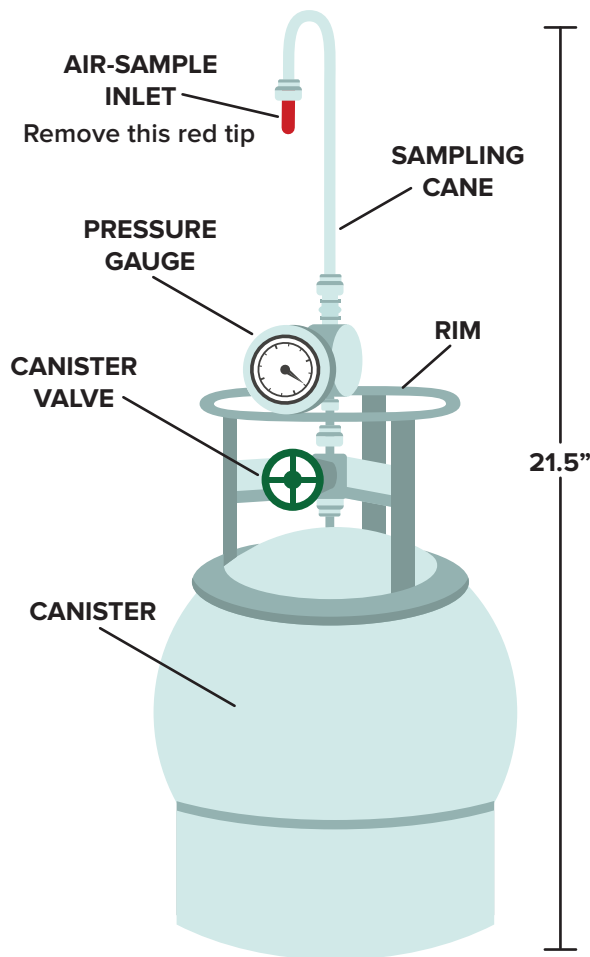


AIR SAMPLING CANISTER



Questions? Contact -

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THE STEPS

Follow each step carefully to capture a good air sample.

1. Check to make sure that the canister valve is fully closed. The green knob should be turned completely clockwise. If it's not, call the office for a replacement canister.
2. If there is a red plastic tip at the end of the sampling cane, remove it.
3. RECORD THE START TIME and beginning pressure.
4. Open the canister valve completely by turning the green knob counterclockwise a little past a full turn. Be careful—do not turn the green knob so much that it falls off.
5. Record the pressure from the gauge.
6. Wait with the canister for 1 hour.
7. After 1 hour, record the pressure from the gauge, and close the canister valve by turning the green knob clockwise. As tight as you might close a coffee thermos but not so tight that it's difficult to open.
8. RECORD THE STOP TIME and ending pressure.
9. Return red tip if canister came with one.
10. Complete all sections in the Field Log.
11. Place the Field Log, map, tripod and canister back into the original box it came in.
12. Call the DEC regional office to arrange for pickup or delivery of the sampling canister.

Division of Air Resources

COMMUNITY AIR SCREEN

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAMPLING

Read this pamphlet completely before you start.

These canisters are for outdoor air sampling only.

Do not use them indoors!



ARE YOU READY TO SAMPLE?

- Have you read this pamphlet completely?
- Have you seen the training video located at www.dec.ny.gov/public/81629.html?
- Do you have the sampling canister, tripod and map?
- Do you have the Field Log?
- Do you have a pen and clipboard to write on?
- Do you have a watch for keeping track of and recording time?
- Is it going to be a dry day? Is the wind coming from the right direction? Is the day too windy?

**DO NOT SAMPLE DURING A RAINFALL.
DO NOT SAMPLE NEAR ANY FIRE.**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

THE CANISTER

The canister comes fully assembled. Instructions, Field Log, data recording sheets, map and other tips are attached in a plastic sleeve. Collect your air sample as soon as possible after receiving the canister while the canister is still valid for sample collection.

You may be asked to collect a second sample using a second canister as part of our quality assurance and control process. Collect this second canister sample at the same time and at the same place as your first canister sample.

Do not remove the bar code or serial number labels from the canisters. Do not mark the canister or attach anything to it.

Once you get the canister:

- Store the canister away from lawn mowers, containers of pesticides or any open fire.
- Do not store it in your car or truck.
- Avoid getting any material such as lotion, perfume, oil, grease, herbicides or pesticides on the outside of the canister.

Handle the canister with care:

- The glass-lined canister weighs about 5-6 pounds and can break if dropped or knocked against a solid object.
- Protect the thin hook at the top (sampling cane) from being bumped.
- Consider taking a buddy with you to help with the canister and note taking, especially if you are taking two canisters on the same outing.

PAPERWORK AND REPORTING

You might have as many as four samples to collect at different times or different spots around the neighborhood.

Each canister has its own paperwork. Be prepared to complete the paperwork for each canister.

- Mark the exact sampling location on the map included in your sampling canister paperwork.
- If you decide to collect a sample in a location not on the map, record that location, including street name and number, cross streets, etc.
- Consider sending photos of the sampling site. These help us better understand the situation. Observe and record traffic congestion, idling vehicles, lawn mowing, and painting in your sampling area. Do not sample near a fire. These activities will interfere with what you want to capture.
- Remember to complete the Field Log. It can also be found online at: www.dec.ny.gov/public/81629.html

IS TODAY THE DAY TO SAMPLE?

Use your judgment. Odors don't have to be the "worst ever" to get a good sample.

- Make sure wind is from the right direction.
- No wind or light steady winds are OK.
- Avoid strong winds.

EQUIPMENT DELIVERY

Call your DEC regional office as soon as sampling is done to make arrangements to return the canister. All samples must be analyzed by the DEC laboratory within 30 days of the sampling date.

SETTING UP & SAMPLE TAKING

Your job is important. Remember to carefully follow the steps outlined on the back.

The canisters come prepared to take the desired outdoor air sample. The canisters work by having less pressure inside than the pressure of the outside air, so they should be opened **ONLY** to collect the sample. Once the valve is opened, outside air enters the canister. This outside air is the sample.

It takes 1 hour to collect a good sample. You must stay with the canister for the entire time and record the data.

- The box containing the sampling canister also contains a tripod to lift the canister off the ground and to place the air inlet at breathing height.
- Make certain that both sets of tripod legs have been fully extended and that the tripod is stable.
- Place the rim of the canister securely behind the silver washer screwed in at the top of the tripod.
- Face the wind and place the canister in front of you to collect the sample.
- If the pressure gauge reaches - 2 inches Hg (minus 2 inches of mercury) while sampling, close the valve. It's alright if your sampling time is less than 1 hour.
- No smoking anywhere in the vicinity of the sampling canister while sample is being collected.

If you accidentally open the canister, do not use it.

Call the regional DEC office and a replacement canister will be provided.