

**Nwtoxicalgae.org**  
**Cyanotoxin Sampling and Shipping Directions**  
**Updated 6/5/2023**

This program is managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The King County Environmental Laboratory provides analytical testing and sample kit shipping under contract. The decision to accept or decline a sample request is made by the Washington State Department of Ecology, local health department and county lake experts. To report a bloom and start the sampling process please reach out to your local county representatives <https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/Contact.aspx>.

***Before you collect the sample:***

1. Request a sampling kit by sending your mailing address (no po box) to [algaetoxinbottles@kingcounty.gov](mailto:algaetoxinbottles@kingcounty.gov). One will be mailed to you.
2. Freeze the ice pack for at least 24 hours.

***Collect the Sample:***

3. Wearing protective gloves, collect the sample by dipping the bottle into the water and blue-green surface scum. Use a clean glass container (dark color or foil wrapped) that is at least 250 milliliters. Fill the bottle completely.
4. Using a permanent marker, fill out the following information on the bottle: collect date, water body name, and Sample Tracking number from NWtoxicalgae.org.
5. Fill out the data sheet and send it with your sample to the King County Environmental Lab. Sign your name and date under "Relinquished By" on the bottom right of the Sample Information sheet. **The lab may decline to analyze a sample that has not been relinquished by signature and date.**

***Ship your sample:***

6. Overnight ship (FEDEX, UPS) the sample to the laboratory with a frozen ice pack; the sample must be received cold and within 48 hours of collection. **The lab may decline to analyze a sample that arrives past 48 hours of collection and/or arrives without a frozen ice pack.**
7. Ship to King County Environmental Laboratory using an overnight delivery service. Ship samples early in the week and do not ship on Friday. With prior notification, government agencies may hand deliver. Private citizens may use the "Algae Sample Drop Box" located outside the laboratory but due to building security policy may not access the building.
8. Shipping address:

Att: Sample Log-In  
King County Environmental Laboratory,  
322 West Ewing Street, Seattle, Washington 98119-1507  
206-477-7117

