



**Vermont Department of Health Laboratory**

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**Instructions for Collection and Packaging of Natural Water Samples for  
Blue-Green Algae Toxin (Kit BGA-3)**

**Please Read Instructions Carefully Before Collecting Sample**

Kit BGA-3 Contents:

- 1 - sample submittal form (ORTox 202 BGA Toxin Request for Analysis)
- 3 - 40mL sample vials with septum caps
- 3 – labels for sample vials
- 1 – elbow length glove
- 1 – prepaid return mailing label
- 1 – ice pack (keep frozen until used)  
(paper towels recommended but not provided)

Upon receipt place ice pack in a freezer, the rest of the kit can be stored at room temperature until needed.

Collection of Sample Instructions

1. Identify an area with a heavy population of the algae growth, frequently close to shore or in stagnant areas of the water body.
2. Uncap one of the vials and collect a sample from the top 3-4" of water. If there is a surface scum, be sure to include some of that material with the water. Wear the elbow length rubber glove provided to you for the sample collection as some blue-green algae have been known to create toxins that cause skin irritation. Cap and dry the outside of the vial. Write collection information on one label and place it on the vial.
3. Collect another sample of water from 10 – 18" below the surface of the water. Uncap a vial and lower it inverted to the collection depth. Turn the vial so that the open end is up and fills with water. Carefully raise the vial from the water, cap and dry it. Write the collection information on a label and place it in on the vial. (same as above)
4. The third vial is an extra to be used in case one of the others gets lost or broken.
5. Provide the requested information on the submittal form for each sample. Also enclose a check in the amount of \$25 made out to the **Vermont Department of Health**. Place form, check and samples in the return shipment container.
6. Keep samples cool. Use the ice pack in the shipping container for cool transport to the laboratory. Deliver or ship samples by first class mail to the laboratory as soon as possible.