SNAP SAMPLER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the Snap Sampler work?

You simply place the Snap Sampler bottle into the Snap Sampler, tilt the bottle open, deploy the samplers downhole using the trigger cable, and when ready to sample, you activate the trigger to seal the water sample in-situ.

The Snap Sampler employs specialty double-opening bottles that collect water in-situ within the well. The Snap Sampler itself provides a mechanical means of holding the Snap bottles open during deployment and a mechanism for triggering the bottles to close only when you want to collect the sample.

How does the Snap Sampler compare to other sampling methods?

Field testing shows that groundwater sampling with the Snap Sampler is faster and less complicated than pump sampling. No power is needed and no separate devices are needed to determine purge stability, turbidity, or water level fluctuations. Laboratory and field testing of the Snap Sampler show consistent positive results.

How much money could I expect to save by using passive sampling?

Cost savings using the Snap Sampler is commonly 50%. With no waste to dispose very little preparatory logistics, and simple operation, sampling 20 wells per day should be expected. Improving productivity by 100% or more is the primary driver for cost savings, along with avoidance of waste handling and disposal.

What about regulatory acceptance?

Passive sampling is being accepted by regulators in many countries around the globe. Like all newer technologies, there is a proving stage where individual regulators for individual sites must be consulted and convinced of the merits and benefits. Our experience shows regulators are impressed with the consistency and quality of the Snap Sampler data and that Snap Sampling is seen as an approvable technology wherever it has been introduced.

What about sample volumes?

The sample volume of the Snap Sampler VOA vial is slightly less than 40ml.

How do I assemble the Snap Sampler?

Assembly takes just a few seconds. There are four main parts to the sampler, plus screws and the attachment mechanism. The release mechanism is held in place with only one screw.

Are there limitations of what analytes can be tested with Snap samples?

No. Snap samples are not restricted to certain analytes. The bottles are open to the well environment during deployment, so no special equilibration is needed beyond restabilization of flow in the aquifer/well.

How many Snap Samplers do I need to collect a sample?

In the recommended usage, Snap Samples are collected by deploying the samplers and bottles in advance of sampling. The well re-equilibrates, then you trigger the sampler. Using this method, you need one Snap Sampler for each bottle you plan to collect. The number of samplers you need per sample depends on how much sample volume your laboratory needs. For some analyses such as SVOCs, you may have to combine several bottles to get one analysis.

What about decontamination?

In most applications, the Snap Sampler is dedicated equipment so there is no need for decontamination. The Samplers go right back into the well that they are removed from, limiting the need for cleaning.

If a Snap Sampler needs cleaning, there are just 4 parts to the sampler, plus screws and connectors. Disassembly is relatively easy with very few moving parts. Cleaning can be accomplished by disassembling, rinsing, and brushing with a bottle brush

What about deep sampling?

The Snap Sampler trigger is now available with a downhole pneumatic trigger. With the pneumatic trigger, you can sample from virtually any depth.

Once you retrieve the bottles, how do you prepare them for the lab?

When Snap Sampler bottles are retrieved, the end caps still have the retainer pin tab. This portion of the cap must be clipped off to allow placement of the septa cap. With the clipper tool provided with Snap Sampler, both caps are easily clipped flush with the top of the cap

What is the green spring inside the bottle?

The spring inside the Snap Sampler bottles is made of stainless steel with a PFA Teflon-coating. The spring pulls the end caps onto the vial when the Snap Sampler is triggered, and holds the caps in place when the bottle is closed. The green colouring is a primer that allows the PFA to stick to the stainless steel.