

Send samples to: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 Attn: Stacy Schmidt
 1420 E 6th Ave
 Helena, MT 59620
 406-444-5228



**Montana Fish,
 Wildlife & Parks**

Contact Information	
Name of Submitter:	Agency:
Name of Sampler:	Phone #:
Address:	E-Mail:
City:	Shipping Date:
State:	ZIP Code:

Sample Information	
Sample Preservative:	URGENT SAMPLES ONLY: (If submitting an urgent sample, please notify Stacy prior to shipping)
Preservative Concentration:	Sample ID(s):
Urgent Sample: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Justification:

	Name of Waterbody	Sample Site	Date Collected	Latitude	Longitude	Water Temp	Sample Depth
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							

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The Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Laboratory accepts samples from Missouri River Basin states for the sole purpose of detecting the presence/absence of Dreissenid veligers. Samples are not currently being accepted from outside of Missouri River Basin states (except for secondary confirmation with prior approval from lab manager), nor for purposes beyond the detection of Dreissenid veligers in waters not currently known to contain an established population and classified as such. All sample submission guidelines below should be followed to ensure proper and efficient sample processing and to minimize processing time. If the following guidelines are not followed without explanation and prior approval, samples may be discarded or moved to the back of the line. Questions about sample submissions or the purposes of the lab should be directed to the lab manager, Stacy Schmidt, at (406) 444-5228 or SSchmidt@mt.gov.

Sample Submission Guidelines

1. Place sample in plastic screw-top bottle, 125-500 mL in size. Nalgene sample jars are preferred and electrical tape around the lid/seal is also recommended to prevent leakage.
2. Final sample to preservative ratio should be about 1:3 (sample to ethanol). 95-100% pure ethanol is preferred. If you use denatured alcohol, ensure it does not contain acetone (acetone degrades samples). Isopropyl alcohol can be used but ensure your final alcohol concentration is at least 70%. Minimize sediment as much as possible. Higher concentrations of alcohol may be required for samples with high amounts of biological material. Please notify lab prior to shipment of any samples containing unavoidably high amounts of sediment or biological material as these samples take longer to process. Improperly preserved samples will be discarded. Please do not ship samples in coolers; if samples are preserved correctly, coolers are not necessary. Keeping samples out of sunlight and heat is important. Buffer samples if pH level isn't optimal.
3. Sample jars should be clearly labeled with waterbody name, locality, and date. Copies of data sheets should be included with each shipment and contain location description, GPS Coordinates recorded in decimal degrees (WGS84) out to five decimal points, date of collection, sample depth, water temperature, sampler, and preservative type and concentration. All samples and results will be kept in the strictest confidence. A copy of this submission form should also be included and filled out completely.
4. Samples should be shipped as soon as possible after collection, rather than accumulating samples and sending large shipments. This helps to prevent delays in all samples being processed.
5. Prior authorization is required for sample prioritization (justification needed), known positives, or the use of a proxy for reporting sample results.
6. When samples are shipped, email SSchmidt@mt.gov with the number of samples shipped and the shipping date. If you require an email notification that samples have been received, please let us know.
7. Upon receipt of results, please respond with an email confirmation. Negative samples will be sent via email notification by the lab technician. Results with suspect veligers will be emailed with pictures from the lab manager to the state coordinator/contact person.
8. Please designate one contact person for each state.