

FIELD VEHICLES 2.3

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Water samples should be processed within vehicles that are designed, designated, prepared, and dedicated for that purpose. If a multiple-use vehicle must be used for water-quality work, then use of portable processing and preservation chambers is mandatory, and additional quality-control samples must be collected to document that the quality of the data has not been compromised. Contamination of some target analytes is much more likely when multiple-use vehicles are used for collection of water-quality data.

Whether using a field vehicle dedicated for water-quality work or a multi-use vehicle, every effort must be made to keep the work area clean and to eliminate sources of sample contamination.

- ▶ Keep metallic objects, such as surface-water and ground-water sampling support equipment, out of the inorganic sample-processing and -preservation area.
- ▶ Install a dustproof barrier between the vehicle's cab and the sample-processing and -preservation area.
- ▶ Cover metal surfaces (cabinets or shelving that cannot be replaced) with plastic sheeting. Replace the sheeting periodically.
- ▶ Store chemical substances so that chemical fumes will not enter the sample-processing and -preservation area.

For additional discussions of field-vehicle recommendations and requirements, refer to Horowitz and others (1994), Shelton (1994), and Koterba and others (1995).

SAFETY REQUIREMENT: Store acids, bases, and solvents in separate storage areas so that the chemicals cannot mix if a spill occurs (NFM 9).