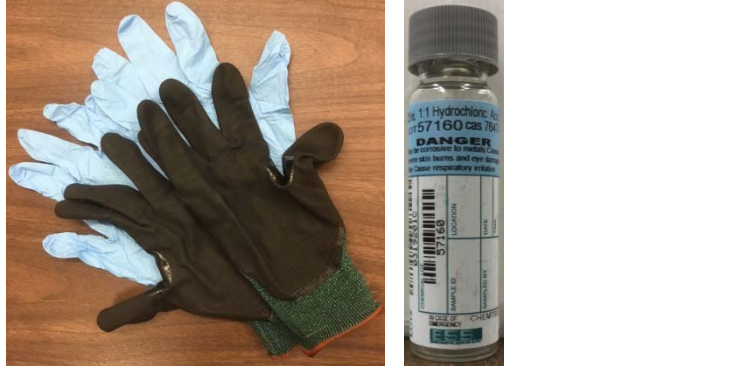

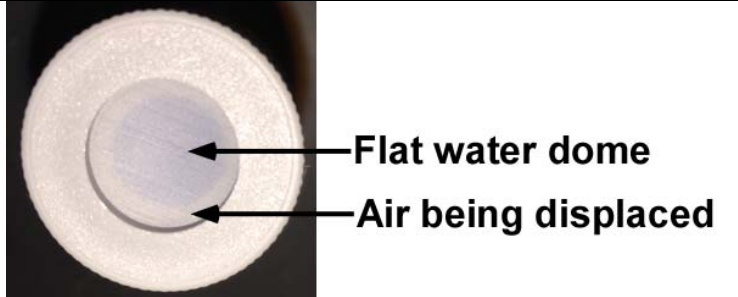
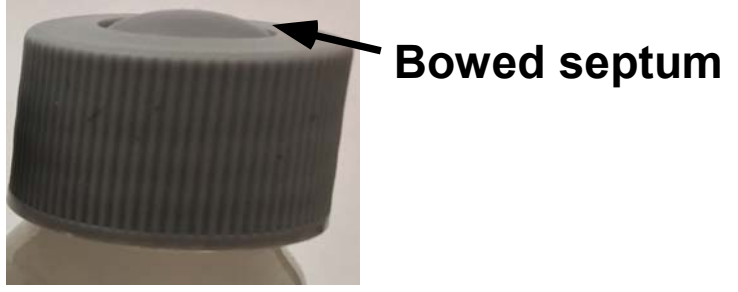


Recommended Sampling Technique to Fill Screw Cap Vials for VOA Analysis

<p>1. Wear disposable latex or nitrile gloves over reusable cut resistant gloves. Select a vial with appropriate preservative; HCl, sodium thiosulfate, ascorbic acid or unpreserved.</p>	
<p>2. Fill the VOA vial with minimal turbulence. Do not rinse out the preservative if present. Fill the vial to produce a <i>water dome</i> that extends above the top of the open vial (2-5 mm).</p>	
<p>3. Place cap straight on top of the vial without knocking the water dome off. Gently screw the cap on and observe the air being displaced out the edge. After the air is gone, a few drops of water drip out the edges of the cap.</p>	
<p>4. Tighten the cap until the septum bows upward and slightly (1-2 mm) above the top of the cap.</p> <p>Note: some vials use very stiff septa. These septa should be bowed upward, but might not extend above the cap.</p>	
<p>5. Invert the vial. Tap the cap and confirm no air bubbles are present. Resample if bubbles are present.</p> <p>Store at $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ without freezing. This slows biological degradation and bubble formation.</p>	