

# are my MONITORING REAGENTS still good



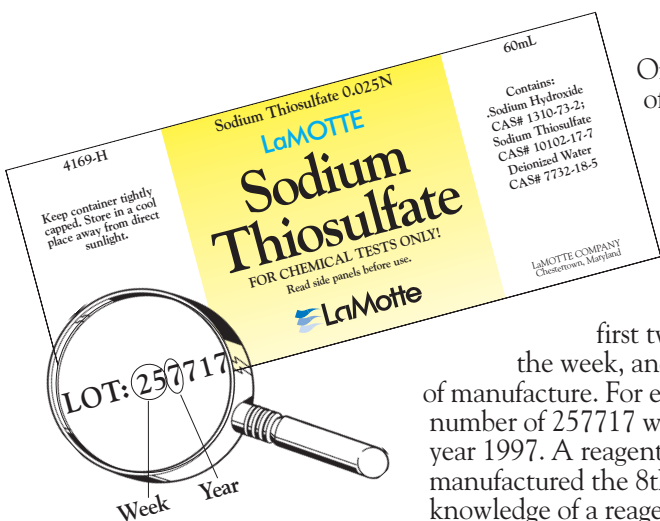
*Avoid waste, save money, and ensure accurate test results*

## How to Determine Reagent Manufacture and Expiration Dates

Most users of water quality test kits are unaware of how to determine the reagent **shelf-life**, or that *length of time when a reagent can, given proper care, produce accurate and reliable results*. The basic guideline used by most seems to be one year from the date of opening. This can lead to both a waste of useful reagents and precious budgeted money. It can also lead to the use of reagents long past their shelf-life because they have only recently been opened.

You have just purchased a water quality test kit which includes several different reagents OR you have just inherited one from a previous monitor/educator and several questions come to mind:

1. If I do not use all these reagents during my testing, and given proper care, how long will they stay reliable?
2. How do I determine whether a reagent is still good?
3. Do I consider when they were purchased or when they were opened to determine their length of usefulness?



On the lower, left corner of the label of each LaMotte reagent is a six (sometimes seven), digit number.

This is not a code number, but the lot number of that reagent. A lot number records the date of manufacture and identifies the reagent as part of a specific batch of reagent produced on that date. The

first two digits of the lot number identify the week, and the third digit identifies the year of manufacture. For example, a reagent with a lot number of 257717 was manufactured the 25th week of the year 1997. A reagent with the lot number of 0812321 was manufactured the 8th week of the year 2001. With the knowledge of a reagent's shelf-life (see chart) and using the information provided within the lot number

found on the reagent bottle, the expiration date of the reagent can easily be determined. This date of expiration can then be marked on the label or on a data sheet. This will ensure proper planning for ordering refills.

Presented in the table is the shelf-life of monitoring reagents commonly used for water quality analysis. Using this table and the lot number found on each reagent bottle will assist the user in determining the reagents expiration date, planning refill orders, saving money, as well as ensure reliable and accurate test results. If the shelf-life of your reagent is unknown, one year from the date of manufacture is still a good rule of thumb.

Code	Description	Shelf Life
4167	Manganous Sulfate	3 yrs
7166	Alkaline Potassium Iodide Azide	3 yrs
6141WT	Sulfuric Acid 1:1	3 yrs
6286	Sulfamic Acid Powder	2 yrs
4169	Sodium Thiosulfate	1 yr
4170WT	Starch Indicator Solution	1.5 yrs
2218	Wide Range Indicator Solution	2 yrs
V-6282	Phosphate Acid Reagent	2 yrs
V-6283	Phosphate Reducing Reagent	2 yrs
4493DR	Alkalinity Titration Reagent B	2 yrs
7520	Standard Turbidity Reagent	2 yrs
7460	Salinity Indicator Reagent A	3 yrs
7461	Salinity Titration Reagent B	2 yrs

