

Water Sampling

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OVERVIEW

- Collecting water samples for further testing is a good way to assess and monitor water quality and identify potential issues.
- Selecting the right time to collect water samples is important, with factors including recent weather, storm and flood events, and water levels to be considered.
- If your sample cannot be sent to the laboratory immediately, follow their instructions for storage.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

- Fill out a collection form with sample details (**Figure 1**).
 - Include contact information, sample location and date, and which tests you want performed.
- Label a sample container (**Figure 2**).
 - Check that the sample label matches the form.
 - Label top and sides of container.
- Collect a water sample (**Figure 3**).
 - Use appropriate PPE, including disposable gloves.
 - Try to collect water without disturbing the underlying sediment.
 - Try to collect water from the middle of the water column (not exclusively from the surface).
- Place the water sample container in a sample bag.
 - Wipe off the sample container so that the interior of the bag stays dry, then carefully seal and label the bag.
- Affix the collection form to the sample bag and ready for delivery to the laboratory for analysis (**Figure 4**).



Figure 1. Filling out the sample collection form.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Collecting water samples to send to a laboratory for testing of water quality parameters is a fast and simple way to assess water quality.
- Label sample collection forms and containers consistently and in multiple locations.
- Collect water samples without disturbing underlying sediment for more accurate results.

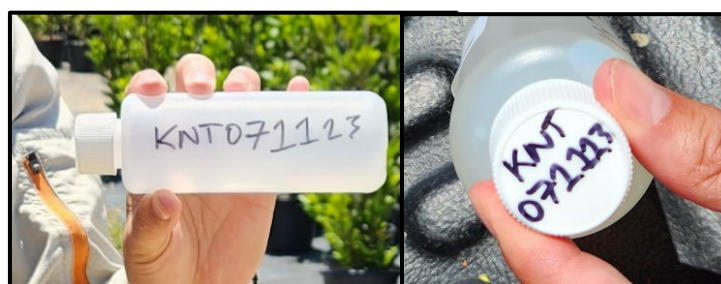


Figure 2. Labeled sample containers on top and sides.



Figure 3. Collecting a sample from a shallow water column.



Figure 4. Affixing the sample collection form to the sample bag and preparing the sample for delivery to the laboratory.