



WATER SAMPLER INFORMATION

Choosing a sampling site:

- Pick a sample site you have access to and unless it is public property, obtain landowner permission.
- Pick a site with easy access and a place to safely park your car.
- Choose a site with perennial flow.
- Avoid sites posted with safety warnings.

Labeling your samples:

- Use a permanent marker, ink pen, grease pencil or regular pencil – no felt markers!
- Label the containers BEFORE you collect the water sample!
- Put your first initial and last name, stream name, date, and time collected on the tape on the sample bottle.
- Put the same information on your field data sheet, only spell out your first name.

EXAMPLE LABEL:

A. Lyon	5/3/03	8 a.m.
North Branch Sycamore Creek		

How to collect the samples:

- Collect your samples from the center of the stream in the flow – not from the banks or in pool areas with stagnant water.
- Open the water container when you are ready to sample and plunge the container below the water surface.
- Fill the container to the line on fecal (smaller) bottles and to the top leaving about an inch on the wet chemistry (larger) bottle.
- You must collect one fecal and one wet chemistry sample from each site. Single samples of either will not be processed.

How to fill in the field survey form:

- Samples without field data sheets cannot be processed! One data sheet is required per site/set of sample containers (fecal and wet chemistry).
- The top portion of the form is required. If more than one person took the sample, please put the name of the person we can call to ask any questions.
- We urge you to complete the general observation section because your data cannot be properly evaluated without this information.
- Most of the general site information is self-explanatory. General observations apply only to the site where the sample was collected.
- Follow the directions on the form to check or circle your response. Most require one response but some will ask you to check or circle all that apply.
- On percentages, use your best “guess.” If you check other, please explain your answer.
- If something else not asked on the forms is significant about your site, put this information in the comments section.
- It is very important to get your sample on ice as soon as possible because bacteria and algae continue to grow rapidly in warm water and this will affect the test results.
- Also, NEVER leave the sample in a hot car! This will kill bacteria and algae. Cars can reach temperatures over 100o F quickly in summer months.
- Put your data sheet in the zip lock bag and re-zip the bag. Put your sample bottles into the inside of the cooler and make sure the lid is shut!

For more information contact:

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THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!