

1. Collecting a water sample

1. Rinse out all sample bottles and buckets with stream water prior to collecting any samples for testing.
2. Dip the bottle into the flowing water, then swirl, rinse and discard this water downstream.
3. Dip the bottle in and out of the water again to collect your sample for testing.



Hints, suggestions and techniques

- Aim to take your sample from 'about the middle' of the stream, so that it is representative of the water in the stream. 'About the middle' means about halfway between the sides of the stream and about halfway between the surface and the bottom. Aim for approximately 20 cm below the surface if the water is deep. For wide or deep streams, use a sample pole to reach the middle.
- Do not take your sample from non-flowing water near the stream edge; the surface of the water; or the stream bottom.
- Take care not to disturb sediments from the bottom of the stream while collecting your sample. If collecting your samples while standing in the stream, always collect them upstream of where you are standing.