



Water Quality Test Instructions

River Guardians, this is your cheat sheet for the water quality monitoring tests. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and rubber gloves and use hand sanitiser after conducting these tests.

Nitrate test strips

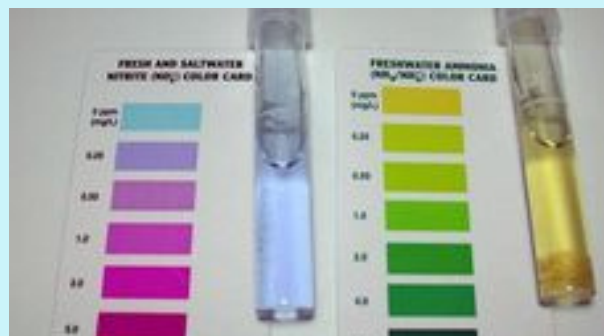
1. Remove one test strip from the bottle.
2. Dip the pad into the water for 2 seconds.
3. Remove the strip with the pad face up, and **DO NOT SHAKE OFF EXCESS WATER**.
4. Hold the pad level for 60 seconds in the shade.
5. Compare the colour of the water to the colour chart on the container.
6. Record the value.
7. Bin the test strip.

Phosphate test (Test tube)

1. Collect 10 ml of water in the test tube.
2. Remove one test strip from the container and gently bend the strip in half with the pads facing inwards.
3. Place the strip inside the test tube CAP.
4. Put the cap on the test tube and tip the test tube slowly up and down five times.
5. Compare the colour of the water to the colour chart on the container.
6. Record the value.
7. Empty the water and bin the test strip.

Ammonia test strips

1. Remove one test strip from the bottle.
2. Dip the pad into the water for 5 seconds.
3. Remove the strip with the pad face up, and **DO NOT SHAKE OFF EXCESS WATER**.
4. Hold the pad level for 60 seconds in the shade.
5. Compare the colour of the water to the colour chart on the container.
6. Record the value.
7. Bin the test strip.



CHECK your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

pH Testing

1. Remove a small test strip from pack
2. Dip the (litmus) paper into water for a couple of seconds
3. Remove the paper from the water and do not shake off excess water
4. Compare to colour wheel on container
Record the value and bin the paper responsibly.

Water chemical testing can be done throughout the year using the instructions above. Please include information about pH sampling.

Please remember to keep sending in your data to either your trainer or riverguardians@merseyrivers.org.

If you need more test strips or pH paper, please contact your trainer or riverguardians@merseyrivers.org.