



Water Sampling Guide

Thank you for participating in our study!

**For questions, comments, feedback or a more detailed instruction sheet:
Visit us on the web at soundcitizen.org**

“Students and citizens working together to conduct significant science”

Brittany Kimball, SoundCitizen Program Coordinator
School of Oceanography, University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195-3351

This kit includes:

- 1 Instruction Sheet with color charts* – (this sheet)
- 1 Collapsible 1L Sample Bottle* – for the water sample
- 1 Large Ziplock Bag* – to put the full sample bottle into before mailing
- 1 Quick-Dip Test Strip* – to analyze the water collected
- 1 Ammonia Quick-Dip Test Strip* – to analyze for ammonia
- 1 Pencil* – to document the details of sample collection
- 1 Return Address Label* – to place on the outside of the box in order to ship it back to the University of Washington
- 1 Pair of Laboratory Gloves* – to put on your hands before collecting your water sample

You will also need:

- GPS coordinates*
- A clipboard to hold your sample sheet*
- A watch with a second hand or a stop watch*
- Tape to close the box*

SAFETY FIRST - DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK WHILE OBTAINING SAMPLES

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Instructions:

- 1) Choose your location and sample type (Obtain GPS coordinates using Google Maps or Google Earth. For more help with this, check out the links on our website).
- 2) **Put on your laboratory gloves.** Collect your water sample. **Fill your bottle to full. Avoid sticks, mud, leaves, etc. The bottles are pre-cleaned, DO NOT RINSE THE BOTTLE. Do not put your hands into the bottle. Do not blow into the bottle.**
- 3) Move to a non-windy and dry place to make your chemical test measurements.
- 4) Remove the Quick-Dip Test Strip (6-Tests in One) from the ziplock bag.
- 5) Hold strip at end **with no** pads. Submerge strip (all pads) into the water bottle and remove immediately.
- 6) DO NOT shake excess water from the strip.
- 7) Hold strip level to allow the colors to develop. After 30 seconds, begin reading the strip **from the bottom up**. Compare pH, Alkalinity, Chlorine, Hardness and Nitrite pads to fresh or saltwater color charts on the back of this sheet. (Notice that there are **two** charts, one is for fresh and the other for salt. make sure to use the correct chart).
- 8) After 60 seconds, compare the Nitrate pad to the color comparison chart. If the colors seen are not a perfect match, guesstimate the values between the two closest colors.
- 9) Record the results in the appropriate space.

*Thoughts on improving this form?
E-mail us at info.soundcitizen@gmail.com*



- 10) Remove the Ammonia Quick-Dip Test Strip (only one pad) from the ziplock bag.
- 11) Hold strip at end with no pad.
- 12) Submerge test strip in water and swirl around for 10 seconds.
- 13) Remove strip and shake off excess water.
- 14) Immediately compare color to the comparison chart and record the result. If the color seen is not a perfect match, guesstimate the value between the two closest colors.
- 15) Go to soundcitizen.org and click on the *Submit a Kit* link and fill out all of the information requested. If you collected more than one sample, **please fill out one form per sample to avoid confusion.**
- 16) Place both the sample bottle in the ziplock bag and **this sample sheet** into the cardboard box. Tape the box closed.
- 17) Place the sample(s) into the refrigerator until you are able to ship it.

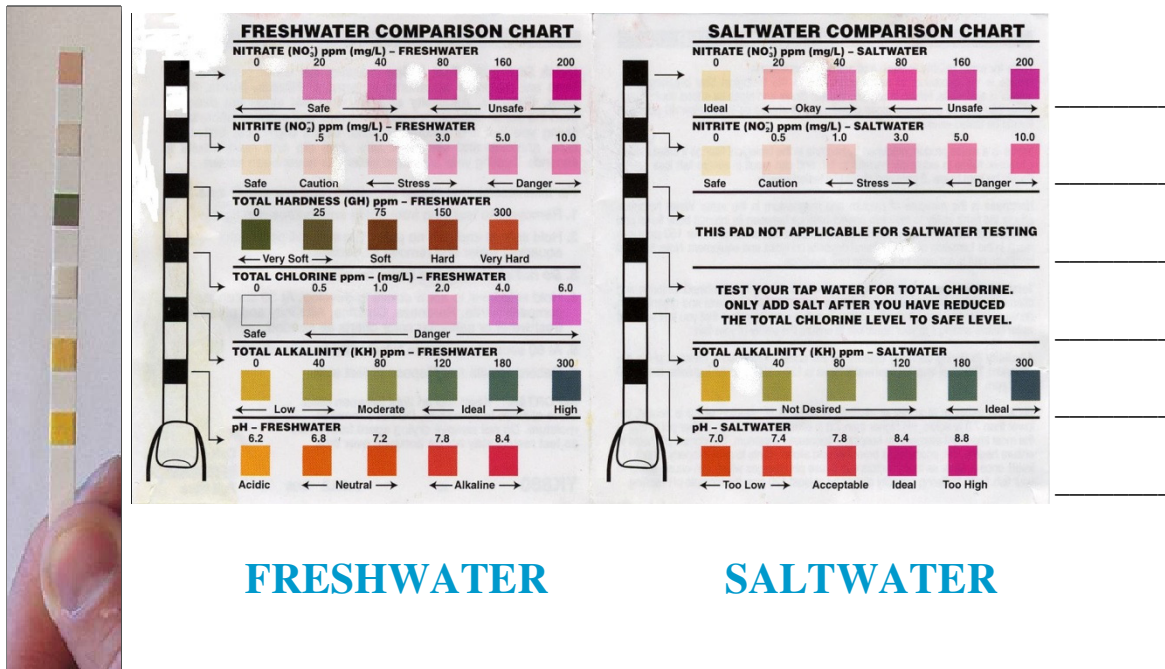
The samples need to be mailed back to the UW ASAP, preferably within 24 hours of sample collection.

We will e-mail you upon: A) Receipt of the kit, and B) after the final data for your sample is uploaded to the web.

Please fill in each line with its corresponding value provided in the chart.

Quick-Dip (6-Tests in One) Color Chart

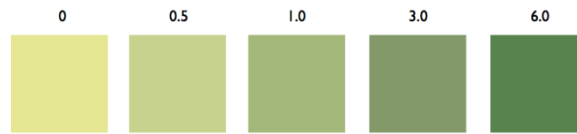
(compare colors to the chart beginning 30 seconds after dipping into water)



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Quick-Dip Ammonia Color Chart (compare color to chart beginning 10 seconds after dip)



Ammonia Reading: _____

Please fill out the following information:

Barcode # on the bottle/box: _____
(Please keep a record of your **barcode #** in order to follow its progress on the website)

Date and Time: _____
Your Name: _____
Organization: _____
Your E-mail: _____

Sampling Location (street address, county and GPS):

Street address / city / state / zip code / county

GPS (Please see our website for a "How To" Guide on obtaining your coordinates)

Other sample location details to note

Circle the Weather Conditions (all that apply): *sunny / raining / just after rain / just before rain / overcast / snowing / hailing / windy / other:*

Circle the Sample Type:

salt / stream / river / lake / home gutter / storm drain / pond / snow / other:

Did you have to empty and refill the bottle because of problems filling it the first time?
(Dirt in the bottle? Other problems? It is OK, just let us know) YES NO

Comments and/or other sample details:

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