

Collection of surface water samples

What will you need: 1L plastic bottle with a cap and a small piece of aluminum foil.

How to:

1. Before sampling: Clean the plastic bottle you will be using for collection and rinse it well. Prepare small piece of aluminum foil.
2. At the selected site: Rinse bottle that you will use for your collection three times with the water on site.
3. Fill the bottle with surface water.
4. Cover the neck of the bottle with the aluminum foil and screw on the cap.
(The foil is preventing plastic particles from the cap falling inside the bottle and contaminating the sample)
5. Label the bottle and fill out the attached datasheet with the information about location and conditions.

Precautions and notes:

Avoid wearing synthetic clothing especially fleece, which may release lots of small plastic fibers and thus contaminate the water sample.

If possible position yourself downwind when collecting the sample to avoid contamination.

Take notes, especially if you notice lots of plastic debris around the area where you are sampling (e.g. fishing nets, plastic bottles, etc.)

For repeated sampling in the same area,

Collection of underwater sediment samples

Aim: To collect about 1L of sediments (sand/silt) at depth.

What will you need: small shovel/big spoon, 1L plastic container with a tight lid (i.e. Tupperware) or sturdier Ziplock bags (2-3 depending on volume)

How to:

1. Before sampling: Clean the container you will be using for sampling and rinse it well. Attach a clip to so that you can take it with you on a dive. If using ziplock bags just put them in your pocket.
2. At the selected site: Before the dive rinse the container and completely fill it with water (do not leave any air bubbles in it, otherwise at depth it will create vacuum and will be hard/not possible to open).
3. During the dive: choose a spot for sampling, remember to record the depth.
4. Use your shovel or spoon to fill the container or the ziplock bags with the surface layer of sediments. It is not necessary to dig very deep.
5. Close the container.
6. After the dive: Remember to label the sample and fill out the attached datasheet with the information about location/ conditions and depth of collection.

Precautions and notes:

- 1L of sediments is quite heavy; it will add about 3-4kg to your weight so plan your dive accordingly. Collect the samples towards the end of the dive to avoid carrying the extra weight. Another option is to attach it to a lifting bag/DSMB and sending it to the surface for surface cover to pick up etc.
- Ziplock bags might be more difficult to close underwater especially in gloves. Choose a sturdier type ideally with a sliding zip closing mechanism (see picture below).