

COLLECTING SAMPLES FOR LAB ANALYSIS – WATER

SWEP can send you sampling information for all your analytical needs. Please contact us if you would like some information sent to you.

General water test sampling

For general farm water samples, rinse a clean plastic water bottle (preferably a bottle having only ever held still water) three or four times with the water you want analysed.

Fill the bottle with 300ml of the water sample. If you are sampling a source where you can't get a continuous fresh flow, then do your rinsing in one spot and then move to another for the sample. Try to get the sample away from the bank, where mud or other materials could contaminate it. To avoid this you may need to use a container on a pole to sample from the middle of dams or water bodies with steep banks etc.

If you are taking the sample from a tap or valve, run some water through it first for a couple of minutes (before rinsing) to clear any sediment or other potential contaminants from the pipes.

Seal the bottle firmly and check that it does not leak. It is advisable to secure the seal with strong packing tape to prevent leakage during transit. Label it using a permanent marker with your name, the sample name and test required.

Biological water test sampling

For biological tests, please prepare a sterile bottle for collection of samples (total bacteria, total coliform and/or *Escherichia coli* analyses) by rinsing it with boiling water **prior to sample collection**. Please note, in this instance the sample container must be suitable for holding hot liquids; boiling water may distort some plastics.

There are various water sampling methods and preparation techniques depending on the type of analytes being tested for. If you have any queries regarding sampling methods, techniques or preparation please contact us to discuss **prior to sample collection**.

Please be aware that samples are tested as received.

Preparation, collection, handling, labelling & transport of samples for

analysis are fully and wholly the responsibility of the person or persons submitting the sample for analysis. The information provided in this factsheet is for use of a general nature only and is not intended to be relied upon as, nor to be a substitute for, specific professional advice. SWEP Pty Ltd will not be responsible for any loss or damage occasioned to any persons acting on or refraining from action as a result of any material in this publication.

For further information please visit our website: www.swep.com.au or call us on 03 9701 6007.

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EXAMPLE REPORT ON SAMPLE OF WATER

FILE NO : **EXAMPLE**

ADDRESS :

REFERENCE :

SAMPLE ID : DRINKING WATER & EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION + HEAVY METALS

DATE ISSUED :

CLIENT ID :

PHONE :

REFERENCE ID :

PHONE :

DATE RECEIVED :

ANALYSIS REQUIRED : Full (WT-3)

ITEMS	ABBREVIATION	UNIT	RESULTS	UNIT
TOTAL CALCIUM	Ca	ppm	1.9	
TOTAL MAGNESIUM	Mg	ppm	1	meq/litre
TOTAL SODIUM	Na	ppm	3.1	0.1
TOTAL POTASSIUM	K	ppm	3.8	0.08
TOTAL IRON	Fe	ppm	0.13	meq/litre
TOTAL MANGANESE	Mn	ppm	0.018	0.13
TOTAL ZINC	Zn	ppm	3.67	0.1
TOTAL COPPER	Cu	ppm	0.18	
TOTAL CHLORIDE	Cl	ppm	23	
TOTAL CARBONATE	CO ₃	ppm	Nil	
TOTAL BICARBONATE	HCO ₃	ppm	6	
Electrical Conductivity		µS/cm	62	
pH			7	
TOTAL SOLUBLE SALTS	TSS	ppm	40	
TOTAL BORON	B	ppm	0.024	
TOTAL NITROGEN	N	ppm	Nil	
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	P	ppm	0.195	
TOTAL SULPHUR	S	ppm	1	
TOTAL CADMIUM	Cd	ppm	0.00002	*Maximum Concentration (ppm)
TOTAL LEAD	Pb	ppm	0.0026	0.005
TOTAL MERCURY	Hg	ppm	0.0002	0.05
TOTAL ARSENIC	As	ppm	0.0013	0.001
TOTAL NICKEL	Ni	ppm	0.0017	0.05
TOTAL CHROMIUM	Cr	ppm	0.0036	50
				0.05

*The maximum concentrations given here are taken from information provided by the World Health Organisation they relate to either health or acceptability thresholds, whichever is the lowest. Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality 3rd Edition. www.who.int/