

TAKING A SAMPLE FROM A BEACH

Before You Start

- Sterilise the beaker and first 24 inches of the sampling pole in the Virkon solution. Use a bucket for this and do this outside if possible.
- Put the ice blocks in the freezer.
- Call the laboratory to arrange a DPD collection on the same day you take your sample.

Before You Test

- **Testing site:** Take a sample from a beach, a pier, jetty, harbour wall, or similar, to avoid entering the water using the telescopic pole. It's preferable that you take a sample that is **at least 1 metre deep**.
- **Gloves:** If you have sensitive skin, we recommend wearing gloves to protect against irritation from the disinfectant wipes.

Step-by-Step Guide

- 1. Clean the equipment**
 - Use the provided disinfectant wipes or tablets to clean all surfaces of the beaker and the first 18–24 inches of the sampling pole.
- 2. Preparing to take the sample**
 - If you can, make use of a jetty, harbour or pier to take a sample. You can use the telescopic pole extended to take the sample. If this isn't long enough, you can attach the beaker securely to a piece of string wire, rope or line. If you need to take the sample from the shoreline, and you can reach water that is over 1m deep with the telescope, do that.
- 3. Take the sample**
 - Take your sample from where the water **at least 1 meter deep**, if possible.
 - Collect from **30 cm below the surface**.
 - Before collecting the sample, rinse the beaker out **three times** with water from the sampling location. This ensures that the sample you're taking is representative of the water you are sampling from.
- 4. Collect the sample**
 - After filling and emptying three times, fill the beaker **to the top** for a 4th time with water from the sampling location. This is your sample.
 - Carefully lift the beaker out of the water and bring it back to you.
 - Try to avoid spilling much if you can!
- 5. Transfer to sampling bottles**

Next, you'll need to pour the collected water into the provided sampling bottles. See guidance on **preparing and storing your sample below**.