

TAKING A SAMPLE FROM A RIVER, STREAM, LAKE OR LOGH

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:** Stand on solid, stable ground. This could be from a riverbank, jetty or bridge. The telescopic pole means you shouldn't need to enter the water.
- **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 to clean all surfaces of the beaker and the first 18–24 inches of the sampling pole.
2. **Position yourself safely**
 - Stand on the riverbank in a safe location.
 - Keep a firm stance on solid ground.
3. **Take the sample**
 - Fully extend the telescoping sampling pole and attached beaker. It should reach 2.5 metres.
 - Aim to reach towards the middle of the river, or as far out into the waterbody as possible.
 - Take your sample from where the water is **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 for a 4th time **to the top** with water from the sampling location. This is your sample.
 - Carefully lift the beaker out of the water and bring it back to the riverbank.
 - 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**.