



How to Take Stream Transparency Readings

Do **not** wear sunglasses while taking a measurement, as this affects the accuracy of your reading. If you wear photogradient prescription sunglasses, please prevent them from darkening by wearing a hat or visor with a wide rim.

Collecting a Water Sample

Collect your water sample in a clean bucket or bottle at mid-stream & depth. A clean paint bucket from your local hardware store works well:

- a. Wading or from streambank: **Always sample safely** - don't wade into fast-moving water or areas of unknown depth. If you cannot sample safely, only record visual observations (*Appearance, Recreational suitability, Estimated Stream stage*). If a sample from mid-stream and depth is not possible, avoid stagnant water and sample as far from the shoreline as is safe.
 - Try not to stir up the bottom
 - Face upstream as you fill your bucket.
 - Avoid collecting sediment from the stream bottom and materials floating on the water surface
- b. From atop a bridge or culvert:
 - With a rope tied to its handle, lower your bucket to the stream and collect water
 - Pull the bucket back up, taking care not to bounce the rope or bucket on the side of the bridge / culvert

Taking a Transparency Tube Reading

1. Take your tube readings in open conditions. Avoid direct sunlight by turning your back to the sun if necessary.
2. Swirl the water in your sampling bucket or bottle so that materials do not settle on the bottom. Making sure the release valve on the bottom is closed, pour the water into the tube until the symbol on the bottom is not visible.
3. While looking down into your tube, open the valve at the bottom and slowly release water until you can JUST begin to make out the symbol on the bottom. Note this depth.
4. Release a bit more water until the symbol is visible. When you can see the screw in the middle of the black and white symbol, it is "visible." Note this depth.
5. Record the average of the two depths taken in steps 4 and 5 on your data sheet to the nearest centimeter (average = depth from step 4 + depth from step 5, divided by 2). If the symbol is visible when your tube is full, indicate this on the data sheet (e.g. > 60 cm). **Remember to write >60 if you can clearly see the symbol when the tube is full (not just 60).**