

# SAMPLING THE WATER

## Part 1: Collecting water for nutrient testing

1. Use a waterproof marker to fill in the blanks on the label of each sample bottle.
  - **Waterbody name**
  - **County**
  - **Month-day-year**
  - **Station number**
2. Without touching the inside of the bottle and lid, rinse them in the waterbody twice.
3. Grasp the bottle at its base, turn it upside down and lower it into the waterbody to elbow depth.
4. Fill the bottle by turning it horizontal and pointing its mouth in the direction of travel.
5. Bring bottle up and pour enough water out to leave a 1-inch space for the freezing water to expand.
6. Cap the bottle tightly and put it in a shaded place or ice chest.
7. Record the time the sample was taken on the data sheet in the column headed "Sampling Time"

## Part 2: Collecting water for the algae testing

1. Rinse the jug and lid in the waterbody twice.
2. Invert the jug and lower it into the waterbody to elbow depth.
3. Fill jug by pointing its mouth in the direction of travel.
4. Bring the jug up, cap it, and keep it in the dark, covered with a dark towel or bag or stored in a cooler.

## Part 3: Measuring Water Clarity

1. Without wearing sunglasses, lower the Secchi disc into the water on the shaded side of the boat.
2. At the point when the disc first vanishes from sight, put the clothespin on the rope at the water line (rope should be vertical).
3. Glance to check the sun cover, haul in the disc, and count rope markings to read how many feet underwater the disc was when it vanished from view.
4. Record water depth and the appropriate sun code on the LAKEWATCH data sheet.

## Part 4: Measuring water depth

1. Lower the Secchi disc to the bottom.
2. At the point when the rope goes slack, put the clothespin on the rope at the water line (rope should be vertical).
3. Haul in the disc, count rope markings, and record depth on the LAKEWATCH data sheet.

## Part 5: Filling in the Data Sheet

1. Fill in top section with Waterbody and Sampler information. Check "yes" to indicate that you collected water for total phosphorus, total nitrogen (small 250 ml bottle) and chlorophyll ½ gal jug and "yes" that you took a Secchi depth reading (if you measured the water clarity).
2. Record the time the sample was taken on the data sheet in the column headed "Sampling Time"
3. Record the Secchi depth using special notations if applicable (B for bottom or W for weeds)
4. Record the cloud coverage during Secchi reading in the column headed "Sun Code Number"

REPEAT FOR ALL STATIONS

# FILTERING PROCEDURE

1. Assemble the filtering apparatus (out of the sunlight) by inserting the filter base into the flask.
2. Using forceps, center a small filter (rough side up) on the cup base.
3. Using tap water, rinse the filter cup and set or screw it on the base.
4. Shake the jug of water and use some of it to rinse the measuring cylinder. Repeat this rinse for each jug as you prepare to filter from it.
5. Measure water from the jug into the graduated cylinder.
6. Pour measured water from the graduated cylinder into the filter cup and pump it through the filter paper until a noticeable color appears on the filter or it starts to clog.
7. After pumping the cup dry, tip (if magnetic) or unscrew the cup off the base.
8. Pull the relief trigger to break vacuum seal.
9. Using the forceps to grip the white part of the filter paper, lift it off the cup base.
10. Being careful not to touch the algae, fold the filter in half, algae side in to enclose the algae and blot the small filter thoroughly on a paper towel.
11. Using a pencil, label a large filter paper with

- **Waterbody name**
- **County**
- **Station number**
- **Month-day-year**
- **Amount of water filtered (mL)**

12. Fold the large paper filter in half, tuck the small filter inside and fasten with a plastic-coated metal paper clip.
13. Fill in the bottom of the data sheet with filtration date and time for each station.
14. Repeat all steps for the remaining jugs of water and put all the filters into the bottle of desiccant. Store in the freezer.
15. Rinse equipment with tap water, let air dry and check to see if there are enough supplies for next month— GOOD WORK!



**Remember if you have any questions or need more detail, refer to the LAKEWATCH Training Manual or call 1-800-525-3928 (LAKEWAT).**