

Citizen Water Map Lab

Collection Howto

You are invited to collect a water sample, book a time to test it, and add it into an interactive map of water quality at the Citizen Water Map Lab.

Choose a location where there is ground water (not tap water) in the Hutt region. It could be a bore, stream or river. We are looking for locations across the whole Hutt region so search far and wide, especially smaller tributaries.

If you are part of a group bringing more than one sample, please choose different spots for your collections so we can get a spread of places.

Safety

You are responsible for your own safety so be sensible when collecting water. Collect water with a friend or a group and children must always be accompanied by an adult. Choose a site with easy access, a slow flow and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. See <http://watersafety.org.nz> for general water safety info.

If you suspect the water at your site is heavily polluted, wear rubber gloves avoid skin contact and wash your hands thoroughly before and after collection. Avoid eating and drinking during the collection.

There are 2 types of collection for different tests, you can do one or both at each spot.

1. Simple collection

This sample will be used for simple tests such as turbidity, conductivity and PH.

You will need:

- a clean 2L plastic milk bottle
- a well fitting lid
- a sharpie

1. Thoroughly wash a 2L plastic bottle with washing up liquid and hot water. Rinse it out thoroughly and leave to dry.
2. Choose your collection spot and fill the bottle with water. Put the lid on tightly, dry the bottle and mark it with the time and date with a sharpie.
3. Drop the sample off at the Dowse, Wainuiomata or the CWML lab and book a time to come and do your tests.

2. Sterile collection

This sample will be used for a coliform bacteria test which is much more sensitive and requires a different collection technique from the other tests using sterilised equipment.

You will need:

- a sterile glass jar around 100ml
- a good fitting lid
- tinfoil
- a snaplock bag
- a sharpie

1. Sterilise a collection jar and lid. Clean it with washing up liquid and hot water, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water. Place the jar and lid into a saucepan of water and boil at a rolling boil for 3 minutes.

- Air dry upside down on a fresh paper towel.
When it is dry put the lid on and seal it tight.
2. Choose a spot where you can collect water.
It should be under the surface of the water but not too close to the bottom, preferably where the water is gently flowing.
 3. Rinse the jar
Remove the lid in one hand and with the other hand submerge the jar under the surface. Collect a jar full of water and screw the lid on while still under the water. Then open the jar and empty it out. Repeat the rinse.
 4. Collect your sample.
Do this the same way by filling the jar and screwing the lid on tight while still under the water.
Dry the jar and mark the time, date and location of the collection with a sharpie.
Wrap the sample in tinfoil to keep out light and put it in a snap lock bag.
 5. Bring the sample to the CWML lab within 24 hours of collection.
Keep the sample cool in transit if possible
Put it in the fridge in a bag and away from food if you need to store it for a few hours.

Collection Info

You will need to fill out the following information for your sample when you drop it off so make sure you have the details with you.

C W M L

Serial Number: 001

Name: _____

Group name: _____

Drop off point: _____

Collection Date: _____

Collection Time: _____

Collection Location: _____

C W M L

Serial Number: 001

Email address: _____

Mobile number: _____

Collection Notes: _____

- Name
- Group name
- Email address
- Mobile phone number
- Collection Date
- Collection Time
- Collection Location (address, lat long, or good description)
- Collection Notes

Contact

Contact cwml@julianpriest.org for more info.

CWML , 152 High Street, Lower Hutt, Open Feb 25th – March 3rd 2017

Drop off locations for 2L samples at The Dowse or Wainuiomata Library before Feb 25th 2017