

2013 Citizens Water Quality Testing Program

Sampling DOs and DON'Ts

--You will need an unused sample bottle, an insulated bag or lunch cooler, and ice or an ice pack. It is important that the sample be kept chilled and also out of the light.

--Clearly mark the sampling bottle with the location and precise time that the sample is taken.

--Do not unscrew the lid of the sample bottle until it is to be filled.

--Do not play with the lid, touch the inside of it or the sample bottle, or the threads where the lid will close. This will make the jar no longer sterile and the sample invalid.

--Submerge the sample bottle approximately 6 inches below the surface of the water with the opening facing downwards, then turn the bottle to allow air to escape and move it horizontally away from you to fill it.

--If you are sampling at a beach, or other area where you must enter the water, step gingerly so as not to stir any sediment. Take your sample upstream or upcurrent from yourself. Do not get sediment from the bottom in the sample.

--If you are sampling from a pier or bulkhead, use a rope and bucket to obtain a large quantity of water, then take your sample from the bucket using the same technique, with the bottle's opening facing downwards. Make sure to rinse the bucket with water from the same testing site first, so as to minimize the risk of contamination.

--Cap the sample immediately after reemergence.

--Place the sample into your bag or lunchbox with ice/ice packs right away. The sample should be kept cold and out of the sun at all times.

--Please bring all samples to The River Project's office at Pier 40. It is on the 2nd floor, room 224. If you arrive before staff members, please place your sample into the marked cooler outside of the door. Take an empty sample bottle from the marked box for next week's collection.

--If you can't sample for a week, please e-mail Rob at avironvoile@gmail.com or call him at 917-656-7285, preferably a few days in advance so that we can organize for someone to sample in your place.

THANK YOU!