
SEDIMENT SAMPLING PROTOCOL

Watch sediment sampling instructional video for further information on collection methods at www.pesticidedetectives.com.au



1. Label sampling jars with details.
2. Locate depositional zones where fine sediments tend to accumulate. Fine sediment collects where water moves more slowly - inside bends in rivers, behind reeds/plants/snags.
3. Rinse all sampling equipment, prior to sampling, 3 times in site water, downstream of where you will collect your sediment samples.
4. Put on clean gloves.
5. Wade to the identified sampling location, taking care not to disturb the sampling area.
6. Gently skim your clean trowel or shovel across the bottom of the river bed, going no deeper than 2cm, to collect the fine top layer of sediment.
7. Transfer the sediment to a clean bucket and repeat steps 5-6 collecting fine surface sediments from areas 1-10m apart around your site to collect a composite sample.
8. With a clean stirrer/spatula carefully stir the collected sediment to mix/homogenize, then scoop small amounts into your pre-labelled sample jars until the jars are almost full to the brim leaving little to no airspace.
9. Seal and carefully pack the jars with bubble wrap and then into the bubblebag.
10. Place jars into a prepaid envelope with a completed Chain of Custody form and drop off at the nearest Post Office. Email aquest.citizenscience@rmit.edu.au to notify that samples have been sent.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Wash buckets and spades/trowels with site water 3 times before leaving site. Conduct a final rinse of equipment with tap water to avoid contamination between sites. Make sure to check that there is no sediment left on them. Take a bottle of tap water with you for rinsing equipment and your hands prior to leaving site.

