

Turbidity Sampling Instructions

Step 1 - Collect your sample

1. Dip the tube into the water at your sampling site and fill to the top. Be careful to sample flowing water and not the stream bottom. Do not stand upstream from the area you are sampling.

Time – 2 minutes
Persons – 1
Materials – Turbidity Tube

Step 2 - Take your measurement

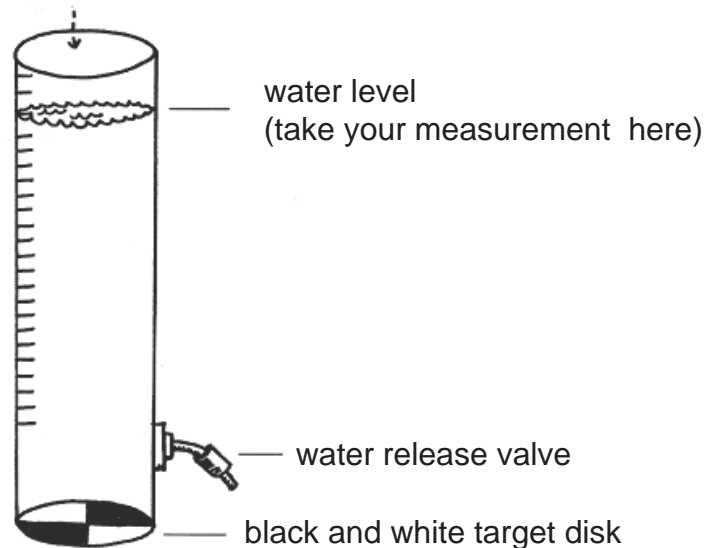
(see figure below for help)

1. Take your filled turbidity tube to a shaded spot. If there is no shade, use your body to block the sun from shining on the tube.
2. With your hand over the opening, shake the tube vigorously. This will help to re-suspend any sediment that has settled to the bottom.
3. Look down through the tube toward the target disk on the bottom.
 - If the disk is visible, record the water level in centimeters (cm).
 - If the disk is not visible, slowly release water from the release valve until the disk becomes visible. Note the water level in centimeters (cm) on the student worksheet.

Step 3 - Convert from centimeters (cm) to turbidity units (NTUs)

1. Match your turbidity measurement in centimeters to the corresponding NTU using the conversion chart on the back of this page. Record on the student worksheet.

Look down into
water from above



Turbidity Conversion Chart

Turbidity Conversion Chart	
Distance from bottom of tube (cm)	NTUs
< 6	>240
6 to 7	240
7 to 8	185
8 to 9	150
9 to 10	120
10 to 12	100
12 to 14	90
14 to 16	65
16 to 19	50
19 to 21	40
21 to 24	35
24 to 26	30
26 to 29	27
29 to 31	24
31 to 34	21
34 to 36	19
36 to 39	17
39 to 41	15
41 to 44	14
44 to 46	13
46 to 49	12
49 to 51	11
51 to 54	10
54 to 58	9
58 to 60	8
Over the top	6

In Utah:

An increase of more than 10 NTUs (from one time to another or from one location to another downstream) violates water quality criteria.