

How to Take a Sample from Blue-Green Algae Bloom

MDDEP (ie: the Provincial Ministry of the Environment) might ask you to take a sample from a blue-green algae bloom.

Where and When?

- o At the time and place where the bloom is most concentrated (eg: in the scum), preferably early in the morning or during a day when there is no wind.

What steps to follow?

- o Position yourself facing the wind (on a lake) or into the current (on a stream or river).
- o Use a glass container with a large mouth (eg: a mason jar) to take a one litre sample. Fill the container by drawing it through the bloom just below the surface of the water in a shallow arc-like motion (see figure 1). Be sure not to touch the bottom of the waterway. To avoid the possibility of skin irritation, **wear a clean pair of rubber gloves.**
- o Use masking tape to label the container. With a waterproof pen or lead pencil, clearly print the following on the label: the name of the lake, of the municipality, and of the individual who took the sample, plus the date and time on/at which it was taken.
- o To illustrate the extent of the bloom, take photos that show both the point at which the sample was taken and the surrounding area.
- o Complete the “Observation Form – Partner” and attach it to the sample.
- o Put the sample in a plastic bag, ensure the bag is tightly sealed, and store it in a fridge or a cooler with ice pack(s). Sample must be cold (4°C) but not frozen.

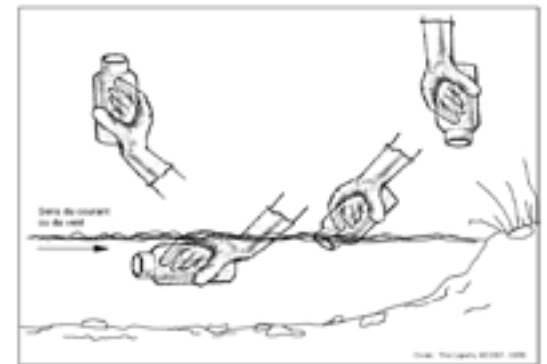


Figure 1 : How to take a sample.



Observation Form - Partner

Name of Waterway				Municipality	
Date Sample Taken				Time Sample Taken	
Name of Person who took Sample				Organization	
Telephone					
Weather Conditions (cloudy, sunny, etc.)		Air Temperature	°C	Wind	Calm Medium Strong Direction :
Information Regarding Sample					
Sector of the Waterway				Near the shore	Off shore
Place (municipal address, GPS coordinates if available)					
Documents to Transmit	Photos	Number :	Comments :		
	Map with Location Marked				
Appearance	soup	clusters	paint	filaments	other:
Colour	green	turquoise	red	other:	
Other Observations					
Method of Conservation	refrigerator cooler with ice or ice pack other:				

