

WATER SAMPLING SUMMARY

Understanding your water quality is essential if it is to be used for irrigation, livestock or spraying.

Soils, plants and animals vary in their ability to tolerate the use of poor quality water.

The quality of water used to mix with agricultural chemicals can also reduce the effectiveness of chemical applications.

Agricultural water supplies should be tested regularly (annually). Water quality can vary throughout the year and after periods of high rainfall or drought.

Taking samples

For more detailed sampling information refer to website www.apal.com.au

- **For chemistry analysis** - Use the water bottle provided (please note special bottle for microbial testing)
 - Rinse the container twice with the water to be sampled. Empty rinse water away from sample site.
 - Fill the water bottle to the top, leaving little or no airspace. Fill to overflowing, squeeze the bottle slightly to allow overflow and cap tightly without reintroducing air.
- **For microbial/bacterial analysis – Use special bottle labelled Microbiological Testing**
 - Do not rinse the bottle as it contains a preservative.
 - Fill the bottle to the 250ml marker level and leave an air gap.
 - Sample must be received and analysis commenced within 24 hours of sampling.
- Label the container clearly with a permanent texture or pen.
- For sampling different water sources:
 - > **New Bores** – Sample after pumping for several hours
 - > **Existing Bores** – Sample after allowing the pump to run for sufficient time to flush the water which has been in the pipe (up to 30 minutes). Collect sample as close as possible to the head of the bore.
 - > **Stream** – Sample main stream flow. Ensure constant water movement. Do not take from back waters where there is little or no flow.
 - > **Dam** – Sample from your dam pipe offtake. This is assuming the pipe is maintained just below the dam surface by a float or pontoon mechanism. It is only necessary to run the pump for some minutes in this instance.

If the pipe is on the dam floor, it may be better to wade into the dam and plunge the water bottle 20-30cm below the surface. Keep in front of you and move slowly while bottle is filling and keep away from any disturbed sediment that may be coming up in water.

OR sample close to the suction inlet to the pump, dam water often settles into well-defined layers so either sample separately or stir up the water; filter the water to get rid of any organic matter.

Do not sample immediately after a rain event that may have carried runoff and suspended dirt and solids into the dam. Allow a period of days for water to clarify before sampling.