

# Measuring turbidity

**UNIT:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

**EQUIPMENT:** Turbidity tube or meter.

*In low levels of turbidity, it is possible to clearly see through a larger volume of water. In highly turbid water it is difficult to clearly see through smaller amounts.*

1. Test your water shortly after sampling or mix solution to ensure no sediments have settled.
2. Hold the turbidity tube half way down and keep your arm straight. Look to see the lines at the bottom of the tube – this is what you need to keep an eye on!
3. Have a partner slowly pour the sample water into the tube. Ensure only a little is poured at a time.
4. After each pour, wait for the bubbles to settle and check that the lines at the bottom are still visible at arm's length. If not, pour a little more into the tube. Keep checking for visibility regularly.
5. When there are no longer three **distinctly** separate lines you should stop adding water and measure your result.



*Tip: You may wish to pour a bit back out and add small amounts of water to find that exact point where the three lines blur.*

6. Look at the numbers on the side of the tube; this is how you measure your result. You need to record the result as less than (<) the last line passed on the tube.
7. Record your result on your *water quality data sheet* or directly into the River Detectives website.

