

Measuring pH

UNIT: There are no units – it is a number on the pH scale (1 -14)

EQUIPMENT: pH test strips

A high or low pH indicates poor water quality. Large changes in pH from neutral can lead to the loss of more sensitive aquatic plants and animals.



1. Place **sample water** in the container provided.
2. **Rinse** and discard.
3. Refill the container.
4. **Place a pH strip** into this sample.
5. Make sure all the coloured lines are **immersed** in water. Leave the test strip in the water for **five minutes**.

Note: If the strip is left in the water for too long the colours will change giving you the wrong results.

6. Remove indicator strip from the sample. While moist, **compare the colour strip** to the colour chart, trying to find the best match for all four colour squares. Read the number value that corresponds with the matched colour strip.
7. **Record your results** on the *water quality data sheet* or enter them directly into the River Detectives website.
8. Compare your result to the rating chart for your region.
9. **Discard** the pH strip and water sample.