

To borrow a macroinvertebrate sampling kit [contact your regional River Detectives coordinator](#) to book a kit and arrange pick up/delivery.

To set up your own macroinvertebrate sampling kit you'll require;

- a [sampling net \(or student set of small nets\)](#). Equipment can be purchased from [The Waterbug Shop](#) or [Westlab](#). Alternatively you can make your own scoop net with these [instructions](#) (mesh must be fine). *Please note we do not advise you enter the water to collect a sample so kick nets are not recommended.*
- good heavy duty buckets with lids for transporting sample water to the classroom
- [Picking/sorting trays](#) (1 per 4 students). White trays give the best contrasting background to the bugs. Alternatively, you can use your own shallow clear plastics tubs with laminated white paper underneath.
- white ice cube trays (1 or 2 per sorting tray works well)
- white plastic spoons (1 per student)
- pipettes for sucking up small bugs (but not essential as spoons will do). *We do not recommend tweezers as you might see in some instructional videos*
- magnifying glasses, three-way bug viewers (you can invest in microscopes, USB microscopes or macro lenses for smartphones/ipads if you want to get fancy)
- Waterbug identification charts/guides (at least 2 per tray);
 - [Simple ID chart](#) printed at A3 size and laminated (suitable for primary students, particularly lower primary)
 - [Simple key chart](#) printed at A3 size and laminated (suitable for upper primary, lower secondary students)
- [Waterbug data sheet](#) (1 per student or sampling tray group) for recording bugs, calculating your score and rating the health of your waterway OR data can be put straight into the River Detectives [online portal](#) (login required)

Other *optional* waterbug identification tools;

- [Advanced key booklet](#) printed (suitable for secondary students, particularly upper secondary)
- [The Waterbug App](#) (free for your device) to use in the classroom or out in the field for keying out species
- [Waterbug flip chart](#) on the River Detectives website (not all species featured)

You may also want to purchase a large plastic tub for housing the equipment at your school.

For all other support in running a sampling session, collecting a sample, teaching/learning about bugs, identifying bugs see the publicly accessible [Resource River Bank](#) tab of www.riverdetectives.net.au or the [Let's Test and Record](#) tab (login required).

A wonderful matrix of cross-curricular, multi-age waterbug activities can be found in the [Dive Deeper](#) tab (login required)