

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program  
Introduction to the Use of “WhirlPak-style”  
Plastic Bag Sample Containers  
for Citizen Monitors

2008



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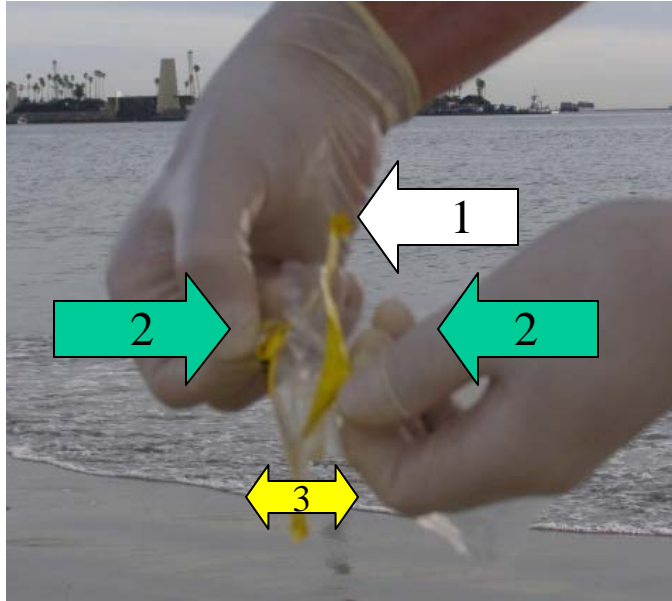


# Label the Bag Prior to Filling

- Site Name or Code
- Field Operator's Name
- Sample Date
- Sample Time



# Opening a Whirl-Pak Bag



1- Remove perforated top  
(Already removed in picture.)

2 Grip tabs located on the side of the Whirl-pak bag.

3- Pull apart to open the bag.

The sides of the bag will stick together. Do not worry about this. The bag will open up when being filled with sample water.

# Proper Sampling



Sediment has not been effected.

Gloves are worn.

Equipment was decontaminated.

Sampling vessels are sterile.

Samples are being obtained subsurface.

# Bad Sampling



Not wearing gloves.  
Sampler re-suspended  
sediments.  
Sampler skimmed the water's  
surface.



Water may have “washed” the  
samplers feet prior to being  
collected.



# Bad Sampling: Using a Sampling-pole



No gloves are being worn.  
Sampler did not decontaminated  
the sampling-pole.

# Closing the Bag



1. Whirl the bag closed\*
2. Inspect Air Space
3. Twist the ties together

\* FYI: Hold the WhirlPak off to the side before whirling the bag closed. Keep your mouth closed.

# Bad & Good Samples

For FIB Samples:  
Fill the bag about 2/3 full.  
Leave an inch of air-space.



Bad- No air space  
(For FIB Samples)



Bad- Sediment



Bad- Not enough  
sample





# Reference: Field Preparation

Field Collecting Equipment:

- Field Data Sheets
- Sampling Poles
- Sterile Gloves
- Sterile Sample Containers
- Ice Chest
- Ice Packs



For Sampling Instruction please refer to the SWAMP Field Methods Distance Learning CD

# Reference: Clean/Decontaminate Field Equipment & Use Sterile Collecting-Storage Items



# Reference:

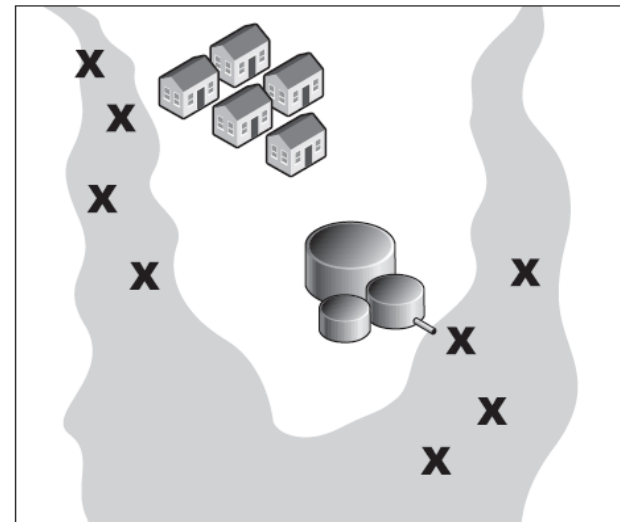
## Collecting a Sample

Geographic and temporal selection of monitoring sites (near septic fields, adjacent to sewers, swimming areas...) and collection times (weekly, monthly, during storms...) is dependent on your monitoring questions.

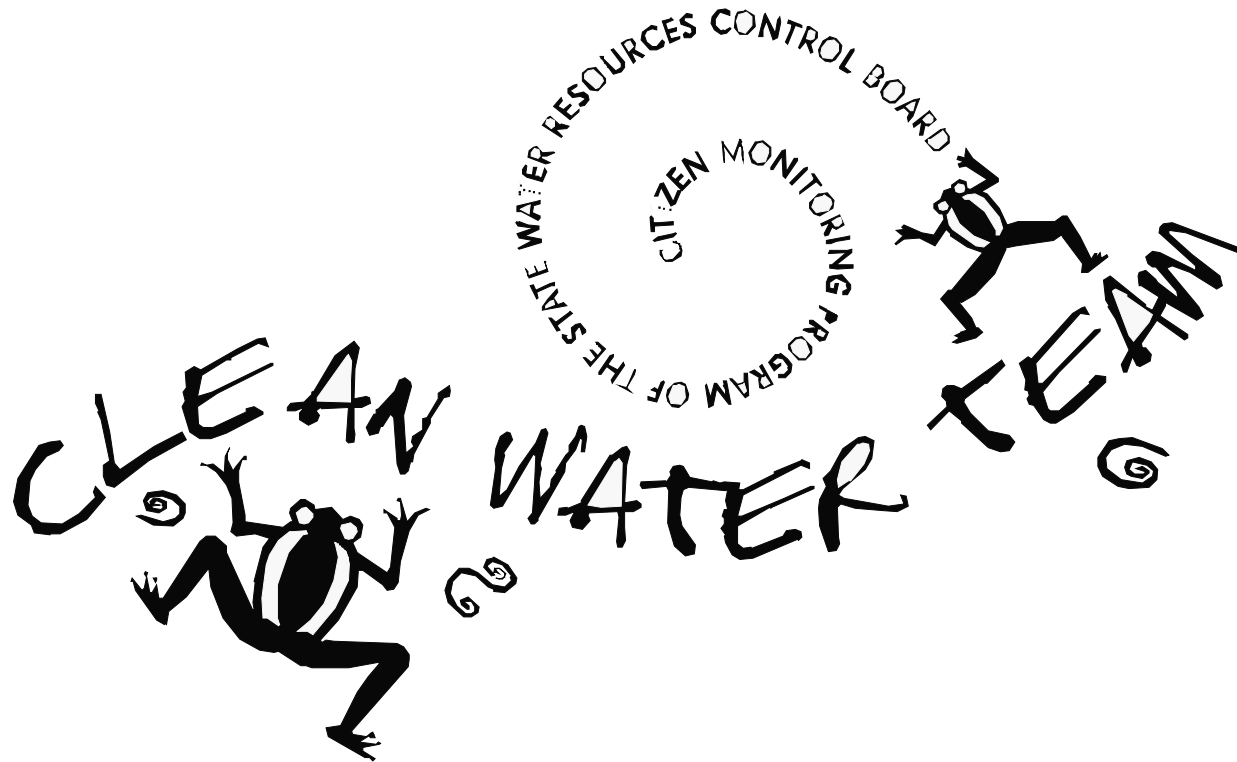
Ensure that you will be able to collect samples that will yield data which will help you answer your monitoring questions.

Obtain a Representative Samples.

Avoid Contamination: Stay clear of algal blooms, surface debris, avoid agitating sediments, wear proper gloves...



END



[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/swamp/cwt\\_volunteer.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/cwt_volunteer.shtml)