

## Sampling water for quality tests

### Why test water

Many natural waters contain impurities that make them directly harmful to crops. Plants vary in their ability to tolerate and use poor quality water; similarly soils vary in their resistance to the effects of poor quality water. Knowledge of the quality of any given water supply, assessed by chemical analysis, is essential in managing this water in an irrigation system.

### Dam

Take the sample away from the edge of the dam and from just below the surface. The sample must not be taken from the edge of the dam where the weed is growing, from near main inflow area, from near the spillway or from near the pump site.

### Creek/River

Take the sample from the main flow area of the stream where there is a constant movement of water. Do not take the sample from backwaters or from where there is little or no flow.

### Bore

For currently used bores, allow the water to flow for at least 15 minutes before collecting the sample. New bores should be allowed to run for sufficient to allow the flow to become stable, and to allow new water flows to move into the suction zone. The bore driller should provide information on the time required to allow the bore to settle. For disused bores allow the water to flow for at least 3 hours before taking the sample.

### Containers and storage

Check with the laboratory that will be conducting the analysis to make sure you use the correct containers for collecting and storing the samples and that you prepare and store the samples correctly prior to transport. This information and the containers themselves are often supplied by the laboratory that will be conducting the analysis. Generally it is necessary to supply a large volume (1 litre) in a clean bottle filled to the top (NO AIR SPACES).



**Queensland**  
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Natural Resources  
and Water



Rural Water Use Efficiency  
for South East Queensland



**Queensland Government**  
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries