



Procedure for collecting water samples for microplastics project.

1. Obtain 1-L sample container. The project is using Nalgene wide-mouth sampling bottles, but any 1-L bottle with a screw-on cap can be used (e.g. soft drink bottle). If using Nalgene, no preparation is needed. If using any other sample bottle, take a small piece of aluminum foil and use it to line the entire inside of the lid (including the threads). This is to reduce the chance of plastic threads from the lid from contaminating the sample.
2. Ideally, collect your sample on a day/location that is as calm as possible and at a slack tide in areas that are tidally-influenced (this allows plastics to rise to the surface of the water instead of being mixed through the water column).
3. At the collection site, rinse the collection bottle and lid three times with water from the site. You do not need to completely fill and empty the bottle—fill it $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ full with water, swirl the water around the inside of the bottle, and empty the contents. Repeat for a total of three rinses. Rinse the lid by dipping it into and out of the water three times. Screw the lid onto the empty container.
4. Go to a nearby area that was not affected by your rinsing procedure (i.e. upstream slightly).
5. Unscrew the lid of the container. Holding it as horizontally as possible, carefully lower it into the water so you are collecting water from the very surface. Continue to lower the bottle into the water until it is full (you will need to angle it slightly), then IMMEDIATELY screw on the lid (ideally you are screwing the lid on partially underwater).
6. Record the collection bottle number and location/date of collection on your data sheet.