

WATER TESTS: to check for Nitrate and nitrite nutrients running into the sea

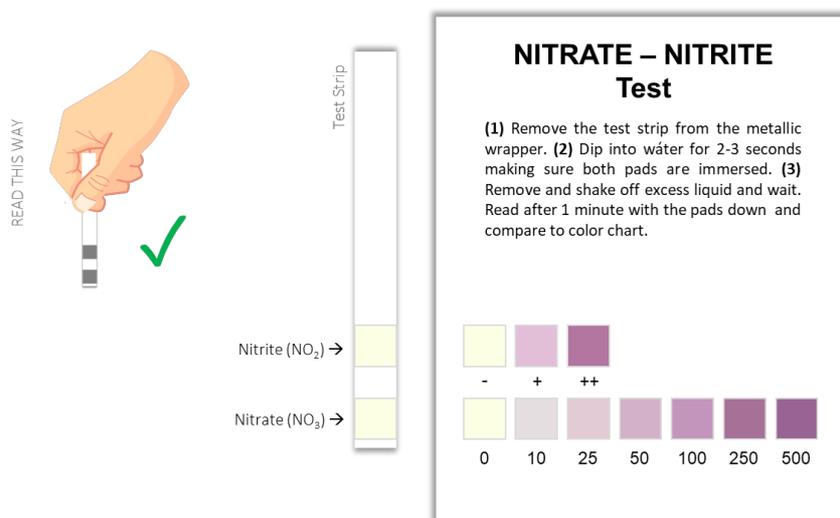


Coastwatch is providing these Merck test kits as we all need to protect clean water and address nutrient enrichment problems. Information is vital. Please use materials and ensure you report back.

Each test strip is in a thin aluminium wrapper and can only be used once. Make sure you keep strip(s) dry and cool 4-10 °C until use on an inflow in your survey unit. It doesn't work in seawater.

1. Open the metallic wrapper at the fine line and pull the test strip out like a lolly pop, so you see the reactive pads area at the tip. Don't touch these.
2. Briefly (1 sec) dip the pads into the inflow - stream, water from a pipe or seepage you are testing. Shake off any excess liquid and wait.
3. After 1 minute (in cold weather up to 2 min), compare the colour of the pads with the colours on the colour chart and decide which is the best match (see picture).
4. Read the nitrate concentration and write the result into Coastwatch survey form B2.
5. Take a photo as this is important evidence and reminder on your phone.

6. Please put the alu wrapper into recycling & the test stick into waste.



NOTES: make sure you read and photograph within 2-3 minutes as the colour may start to bleed.

If you don't have a colour chart with you, or sharing one in a group. collect water into an empty water bottle, rinse and fill a little to test for Nitrates once u get to the chart.

What the results mean: If neither pad changes colour it means Nitrite and Nitrate are below detection as they should be in clean water! A slight colour change which matches the 10mg/l means there are at least 10mg/l NO_3 in the water, but less than 25 mg/l. If it's a deep colour matching the 50mg/l it means the sample contains at least 50mg/l NO_3 and is therefore in breach of limit values set in EU and national law (Nitrates Directive and as it happens also the Drinking water Directive)

Follow up: In the very rare event of having a positive Nitrite result - or sadly not so rare high Nitrate (50mg/l or more) please share both test result photo and an inflow picture by uploading or emailing it survey@coastwatch.org. If email make sure you add the survey area. Any comments including any ideas of source if Nitrates are really high and notes on rainfall just before you surveyed go into that email or in your survey form in B3. Try looking up <https://www.catchments.ie> for official data.

So looking forward to your results! It's just a snap shot, but all the snapshots add together and provide a bigger picture over space and years of surveying. Safe surveying - Karin for the Coastwatch team