



RBV Quick Reference Field Guide

CT DEEP Volunteer Water Monitoring Program

Step 1:
Identify 6 'kick-stop' locations within the study riffle where you will collect your samples.

Step 2:
Fill out the top of your RBV datasheet (use a GPS unit, cellphone or the RBV Site Submission form to determine the latitude/longitude of your site).

Step 3:
Stand in the middle of the stream and **take a photo facing upstream, turn 180 degrees and take a second photo facing downstream** (try to capture as much of the stream and stream banks as possible in your photos).

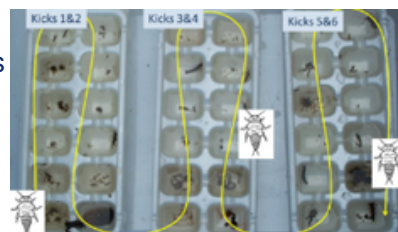


Step 4:
Place your net, opening facing upstream, at the first kick-stop. Visualize an area of 14x18 inches in front of your net (this is the size of the net frame). For a maximum of 2 minutes, **scrub any rocks in that sample area within the net**.

Step 5:
Stand next to the net and **use your heel to vigorously 'kick' the stream bottom in front of the net** for a maximum of 1 minute using a back and forth or 'Z' motion to dig up the sediment.

Step 6:
Carefully pick up the net out of the water, being careful not to lose any material inside, and move upstream to your second kick-stop. **Repeat the process and empty the net contents from kick 1 and 2 into a white sample tray.**

Step 7:
Repeat Steps 4 and 5 at your next two kick-stop locations and empty the contents into a second white sample tray. **Repeat again at the next two kick-stops** and place the contents into a third white sample tray (each sample tray should contain the contents of two kick-stops).



Step 8:
Using tweezers or spoons, **pick out as many organisms as possible from each tray**. Use an ice cube tray to sort your organisms into groups of similar looking critters (there should be one ice cube tray for each sample tray).

Step 9:
Use the RBV Sorting Guide and the Field Identification Cards to try to **identify each type of organism in the ice cube trays**. As you identify each macroinvertebrate, **mark ("X") the corresponding type as present on your datasheet**.

Step 10:
Using your completed datasheet as a guide, **place 2-3 of each macroinvertebrate types into a glass or clear plastic voucher container**. Complete an RBV label using pencil and **place the label inside the vial** (you may tape a second label on the outside if you desire). **Fill the container completely with rubbing alcohol and tightly secure the lid in place.**

Step 11:
Submit the photos, completed datasheet, and labeled voucher to your Local RBV Coordinator for submission to CT DEEP.