

What is turbidity?

Turbidity is a measure of the relative clarity of water. Turbid water is caused by a variety of factors including suspended particles such as clay, silt, organic and inorganic matter, and even organisms. Turbid water may be caused by erosion, run-off from urban areas, algal blooms and disturbances to the bottom sediments.

Turbidity (5887)



1. Collect your sample water using a clean plastic sample bottle then transfer the sample to the test tube.
2. Clean the test tube by rinsing with sample water or distilled water (3-times), then fill with sample water to the 25-ml line.
3. Place the base of the tube on the outline on the Turbidity Chart.
4. Look down through the sample water at the Secchi disk icon under the tube.
5. Compare the appearance of the icon under the tube to the Secchi disks on either side of the tube to estimate the turbidity in JTU.