Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 3.1.5.2

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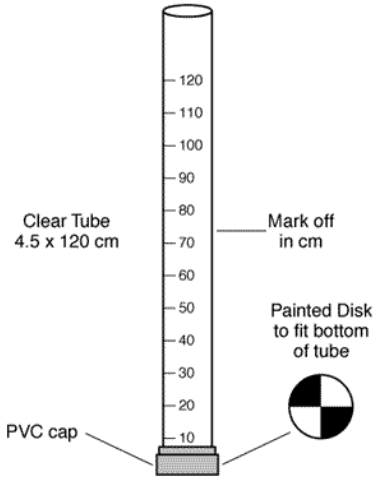
Water Clarity (transparency) Using a Transparency Tube

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness in water and is caused by suspended sediments and plankton. Clarity for creeks, streams, and rivers is measured with transparency tube.

Determining Transparency Tube Depth:

Equipment

Transparency Tube: Transparency tubes are normally 120 cm long x 3.5cm wide clear plastic tube, some are only 60 cm long. A stopper with a mini-Secchi disk image on its top is inserted into the tube bottom. Attached to the length of the tube is a meter-tape. Along side the bottom is a water release valve.



Measuring Transparency Depth

1. Fill the tube with water. This is done by plunging the tube into the stream or by decanting a sample into the tube.
2. Look down into the tube as water is released through the valve. When the Secchi Disk image becomes visible record the depth.

Tip: Make sure that the sample is sufficiently mixed and that the transparency depth is measured quickly as to prevent sediment from accumulating on the Secchi Disk image.

Image From G.L.O.B.E. Teachers Guide 1997