

TESTING IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

Testing does not have to be difficult, especially if well prepped before venturing into the rain on your Risk Level 2 and 3 job sites.

BEFORE HEADING OUT:

Make sure that your turbidity meter is charged, your calibration standards are not expired, and the batteries on your pH meter are good.

CALIBRATE:

- pH Meter
 - Soak tip at least 30 minutes before testing or store in deionized water
 - Calibrate using buffer standards. pH buffer standards are 4.0, 7.0, and 10.0
- Turbidity Meter
 - Calibrate using your calibration standards before heading out. Standards must be in the operating range of your meter. Follow manufacturer guidelines for your meter (Common Turbidity Meter Brands: La Motte, Hach, Hanna, etc.)



IN THE FIELD:



You will need to take at least three samples at each outflow location.

Tip: You do not need to do your test while in the rain. Collect your samples using clean cups or water bottles and test in your car or the warmth of your job trailer.

- pH Testing:
 - pH is very sensitive to temperature, testing needs to happen immediately.
 - When testing, it may take a bit to equilibrate the meter.
 - Note your readings

pH NALs: >6.5 and <8.5

- Turbidity testing:
 - Testing must occur immediately. The samples only reflect a specific location at a specific time.
 - Samples must be dried off before insertion into test kit.
 - Note your results and run an arithmetic average.

Turbidity NALs: 250 NTU +



AFTER:



If you have exceedances with either/both pH and turbidity, these numbers must be reported on your ad hoc reports and submitted into SMARTS (10 day window for Risk Level 2, 5 day window for Risk Level 3). The numbers also serve as a benchmark for action, so investigate what may be causing the exceedances, and once found, apply a fix as soon as possible, with testing to follow fixes. High pH could be coming from an overfilled or improper concrete washout, high turbidity could be coming from a blown out spoils pile, etc. Being a great QSP means taking the time to identify problems so they can be tackled effectively and efficiently.

HANDS ON TRAINING:

If you would like additional hands on training about stormwater testing techniques, please contact us about joining us for one of our PDH classes in Orange County.