

Make a Plan to Monitor

Each free Nitrate Watch test kit comes with 25 nitrate test strips. Use this worksheet to make a plan and get the most out of your test kit!

1

CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON THE CLEAN WATER HUB

The Clean Water Hub is the database where all Nitrate Watch readings are reported. Visit www.cleanwaterhub.org/nitratewatch and follow the prompts to create an account!

Already have a Clean Water Hub account? You're all set!

2

PLAN OUT WHERE YOU WILL MONITOR

You can use your test strips to monitor:

- **Surface water** (rivers, lakes, streams) or
- **Drinking water** (from a public drinking water system or private groundwater well)

Choose waterways that are important to you!

Concerned about a potential polluter?

Monitor upstream and downstream of it and compare your results.

Places I plan to monitor:

Location	Type of Sample Source

3

DECIDE WHEN YOU WILL MONITOR

You can monitor whenever you want, but it is a good idea to get on a schedule. Make nitrate watch part of your weekly routine!

My monitoring schedule:

Peaks in nitrate readings will likely occur...

- **in the Spring and Fall** (in response to agriculture activities)
- **after rainfall** (nitrates are carried in runoff)

Remember: **All data is good data!** We need to record baseline conditions so that we can better interpret changes over time.

4

RESEARCH WHO NEEDS TO KNOW

Advocacy and education are at the heart of Nitrate Watch. If you uncover a nutrient pollution problem or record unsafe levels of nitrate, who will you tell?

Add names and contact information for the parties below so that you are prepared to share your data.

For unsafe levels of nitrate in drinking water:
Local health department:

For unsafe levels of nitrate and/or algal blooms in surface water:
Local environmental agency:

For general concerns about nutrient pollution in your community:
Local newspaper:
City council (when do they meet?):
Senator & representatives:

Looking for more ways to make a difference with your data?
Find advocacy resources online at nitratewatch.org!