



Know Your Water. Build A Better Management Plan.

Small changes can have a big impact.

Understanding water and sediment conditions helps identify nutrient sources, guide treatment decisions, and support long-term water quality goals. Testing provides the insight needed to address issues proactively rather than reacting after problems become visible.

Water Quality & Sediment Test Purpose

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Alkalinity	Shows the water's ability to buffer pH changes, which helps determine overall water stability and treatment planning.
Ammonia	Helps identify nutrient loading, organic waste buildup, and conditions that may stress fish or other aquatic life.
Chloride	Indicates salt inputs from runoff, groundwater, deicing salts, wastewater, or other sources that can affect water quality.
Chlorophyll a	Measures algae abundance and helps assess the severity of algal growth in a pond, lake, or reservoir.
Conductivity	Provides a quick measure of dissolved minerals, salts, and other ions in the water, which reflects overall water quality.
Dissolved Organic Carbon	Measures dissolved organic material that can influence color, oxygen demand, nutrient cycling, and treatment performance.
Hardness	Measures calcium and magnesium levels, which can affect aquatic chemistry, product performance, and habitat conditions.
Metals	Detects metals that may affect water quality, aquatic life, sediment interactions, or treatment decisions.
Nitrates & Nitrites	Measures key forms of nitrogen that can fuel algae and plant growth and indicate nutrient inputs.
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl	Measures organic nitrogen and ammonia to help understand the total nitrogen load in the system.
pH	Shows how acidic or basic the water is, which affects aquatic life, nutrient availability, and treatment performance.
Phosphorus, Free Reactive — Water	Measures the form of phosphorus most readily available to algae and aquatic plants.
Phosphorus, Total — Water	Measures the full phosphorus load in the water, including both available and bound forms.
Phosphorus, Total (Sediment)	Measures phosphorus stored in the sediment that may contribute to future algae or plant growth.
Phosphorus Fractioning (Sediment)	
Level 1: Total & Available Phosphorus	Provides a baseline view of sediment phosphorus levels and the portion that may be available for release.
Level 2: SRTC Comprehensive	Provides a more detailed sediment phosphorus profile to support advanced management and restoration planning.
Salinity	Measures dissolved salts that can affect aquatic life, water chemistry, and long-term system health.
Total Dissolved Solids	Measures dissolved minerals, salts, and other small particles that influence water clarity, chemistry, and suitability for use.
Total Suspended Solids	Measures particles suspended in the water that can reduce clarity, carry nutrients, and affect habitat quality.
Turbidity	Measures water cloudiness caused by suspended particles, algae, sediment, or organic matter.
Total Organic Carbon	Measures the total amount of organic carbon in the water, which can influence oxygen demand, color, and treatment response.
True Color	Measures the natural color of filtered water, often caused by dissolved organic matter.
Apparent Color	Measures the color of unfiltered water, including both dissolved color and suspended particles.
Volatile Solids	Estimates the organic portion of solids, helping distinguish organic material from mineral sediment.



Contact Us

Turn Data Into Action.

Need help interpreting your results? Contact your local SEPRO Technical Specialist for recommendations and next steps.