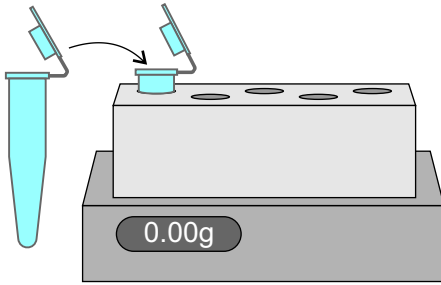


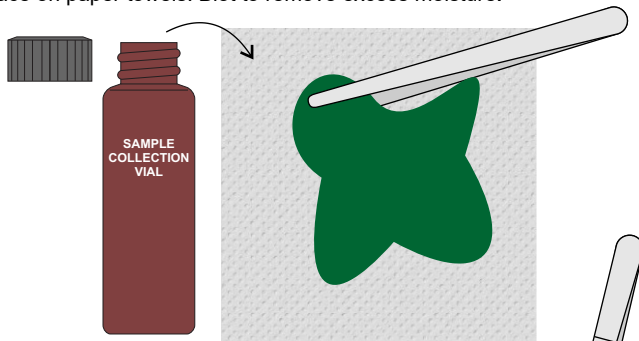
1. Set scale to ZERO

Unfold the cardboard vial holder from the sample extraction kit and place on the portable scale. Place one sample extraction tube into the vial holder and press the "tare" button to bring displayed weight to "0.00 g".



2. Remove sample and blot

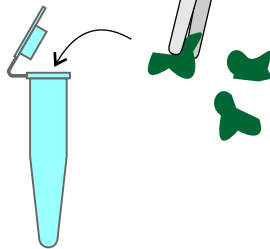
Remove the benthic mat sample from the amber vial and place on paper towels. Blot to remove excess moisture.



3. Transfer sample pieces

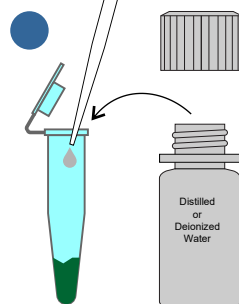
Remove small pieces of the mat material from throughout the sample (a total of 0.25 g) and place into the sample extraction tube.

NOTE: Tweezers must be cleaned with 10% bleach solution and rinsed with water after each use and gloves must be cleaned or changed if they come into contact with benthic mat sample or water that is removed during blotting of sample to prevent cross-contamination of extraction/testing materials or samples which can cause inaccurate test results.



4. Add Water

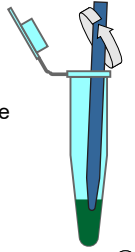
Using a graduated pipette from bag with blue sticker, add 0.5 mL of distilled or deionized water to the tube with benthic mat sample, being careful to avoid touching the sample or the tube with the pipette to prevent cross contamination.



5. Grind sample and solution

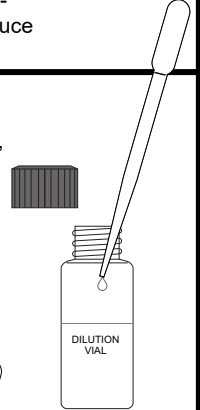
Using a clean disposable pestle, thoroughly grind the sample and extraction solution for 4 minutes, using caution to not spill from the tube. When thoroughly ground, the sample will have a thin, mud-like appearance, with no large mat pieces visible in the solution.

NOTE: If sample or water overflows from the tube during extraction, wipe the tube with a paper towel saturated with 10% bleach solution and clean or change gloves to prevent personal contact with Microcystins, which can cause harm, or cross-contamination of extraction/testing materials that can produce inaccurate results.



6. Add water

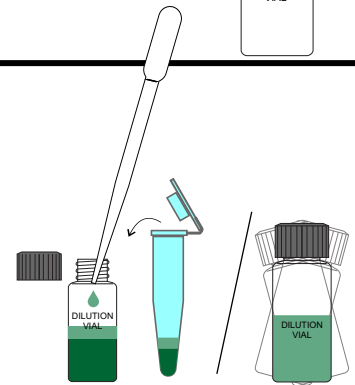
Using the same disposable graduated pipette from step 4, add 9.5 mL of distilled or deionized water to Dilution Vial.



7. Transfer sample extract

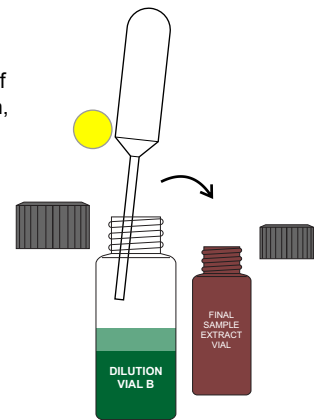
Using the same pipette, transfer all of the sample extract from step 5 to the Dilution Vial.

Cap vial tightly and shake for 30 seconds to thoroughly mix. Allow to settle for 10 minutes.



8. Transfer

Using a transfer pipette from the bag with the yellow sticker, transfer the upper liquid of the extract from the Dilution Vial into a clean, labeled amber Final Extract vial.



9. Analyze

Analyze the diluted benthic mat sample extract from the Final Extract vial (from step 8 above) as described in section E (Test Strip Sample Analysis Procedure) of the user's guide.