

Sample Processing



What You Will Need to Efficiently Process a Sample



**An open space
with a sink and
water supply**



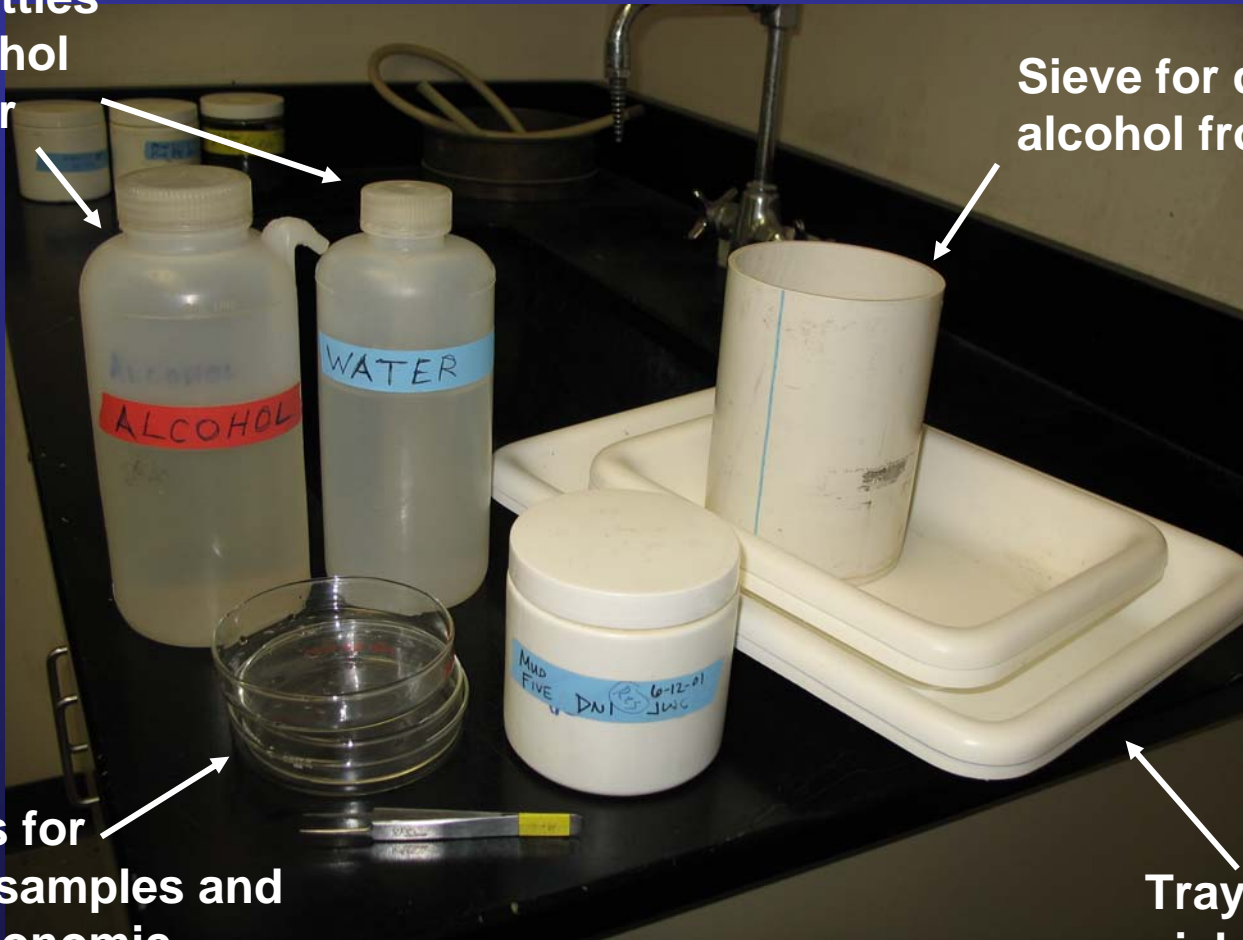
What You Will Need to Efficiently Process a Sample

Squirt Bottles
with Alcohol
and Water

Sieve for draining
alcohol from sample.

Petri dishes for
identifying samples and
keeping taxonomic
groups separate

Trays for
picking through
samples.



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Properly
Labeled
Sample



Jar
Adequately
Filled with
Alcohol

Step 1: Empty sample contents into sieve.



Alcohol

Be sure to maintain the alcohol in a separate container so that the sample can be represerved after processing. If the alcohol has a funky, rotten smell to it, represerve the sample with fresh alcohol.

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Alcohol



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Step 2: Rinse sample with water and pour into a water filled tray.



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Step 3: Pick through and identify your sample.



Step 4: Return sample to sample container and re-preserve



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Alcohol -
not water!!



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Re-preserve with alcohol maintained from sample.



Step 4: Return sample to sample container and re-preserve

Be sure that you return the correct internal label to the sample jar.



Step 4: Return sample to sample container and re-preserve



Tighten lid to ensure alcohol does not evaporate during long-term storage.

Key Points for Lab Work Today



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- 1 - Be sure to look at all of the groups, including
 - Beetles and Bugs
 - Leeches
 - Snails
 - Dragonflies and Damselflies
 - Mayflies
 - Caddisflies
 - Other miscellaneous groups

Key Points for Lab Work Today

2 - Samples should be poured into plastic trays or petri dishes for identification under the microscope.



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3 - When looking at specimens be aware that the alcohol fumes can be quite strong. If you are uncomfortable with the smell be sure to filter out the alcohol and keep the specimens wet with water.



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4 – Do not let specimens dry out. Be sure to keep them damp with either water or alcohol.



Key Points for Lab Work Today

5 – After looking at the specimen groups, be sure to return them to the proper container and re-preserve them with alcohol, not water!!



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6: There is no such thing as a dumb question!!

- Most of what you will be looking at today will be things you have never seen.
- Most of you have never done serious taxonomic work with any group of organisms.
- We are here to help. Before you move on to a new group or organisms double check with us make sure you've "got it".

Key Points for Lab Work Today

7: Enjoy yourselves!!

