


# RECORD YOUR DATA

DATE	SITE	WEATHER	CHLORIDE (ppm)

## HOW DOES YOUR DATA COMPARE?

NJDEP surface water quality standards say **chloride levels should remain below 230 ppm** in freshwaters. Research finds negative impacts to stream and lake ecology at chloride levels as low as 50 ppm.

Visit [njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch](https://njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch) for resources on how to **reduce your own salt footprint and engage your community in learning more about smart salt practices.**

 **TEST STRIP CONVERSION TABLE**

Refer to the conversion table that came with your test strips

PLACE YOUR COMPLETED TEST STRIP IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT AND SNAP A PHOTO

# NJ SALT WATCH

## 2025-2026 PARTICIPANTS GUIDE

The Watershed Institute and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) launched NJ Salt Watch in 2020 to gain a better understanding of the scope of winter salt impacts on NJ freshwaters. Based on the Izaak Walton League of America’s Salt Watch program, we have collected **more than 3,500 chloride measurements across the state with the help of volunteer scientists just like you.**

*Thank you for being a part of NJ Salt Watch!*

## GET STARTED

- 1 CHOOSE YOUR MONITORING SITE(S)**

Select **any freshwater stream, river, pond, or lake in New Jersey** where you can safely access the water and have permission to access the property. Public land is usually fair game. We use Hach low-range chloride test strips which should be used in **freshwaters only.**
- 2 TEST YOUR FIRST WATER SAMPLE**

Visit your site(s) soon after receiving your NJ Salt Watch kit to **find the best spot to collect a water sample for your first chloride measurement.** Submit your reading to the online form as soon as you can after collection to add data to our live map at [njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch](https://njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch)
- 3 PLAN YOUR REMAINING SITE VISITS**

**Return to the same site(s) to use up your remaining test strips** before the end of April. You may schedule visits weekly, monthly, or according to the weather. Measurements taken within 48 hours of snow or snowmelt can be especially valuable if you can reach the water safely.

# CHLORIDE TEST INSTRUCTIONS

## 1 RINSE CUP AND SAMPLE WATER

Bring your NJ Salt Watch supplies and a small clean glass or plastic cup to your monitoring site to conduct your test.

Rinse the inside of your cup 3 times with your sample stream or lake water, then fill the cup with about an inch of water.

## 2 INSERT TEST STRIP AND WAIT

Place one chloride test strip into the cup with the Quantab label at the top. The test will not work if the top half of the test strip is submerged.

Leave the strip sitting in the cup until the horizontal orange line at the top turns a dark blue or black (up to 10 minutes).

## 3 READ AND DOCUMENT RESULTS

**Read the Quantab unit:** Locate where the tip of the white peak falls on the test strip.

**Find the chloride measurement:** Match the Quantab unit to the corresponding chloride measurement on the attached table.

- 📷 **Take a photo of your completed test strip on the chloride conversion table.**  
Document your data within about 15 minutes - test strip values will change over time.

## 4 SUBMIT DATA ONLINE

Scan the QR code or visit [njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch](http://njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch) to submit your data.



Share your location, chloride measurement, and a photo of your test strip. Data can be viewed at [njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch](http://njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch)

# MORE INFORMATION

## TEST STRIP STORAGE

Store your test strips sealed in the plastic bag provided, preferably inside the envelope to **avoid direct light, moisture, and heat** (cooler than 86 degrees F). Make sure your hands are dry when you reach inside for a test strip. **Expiration dates are printed on the bag.** Please use up your full supply of test strips - they're expensive!

## SAMPLE COLLECTION

**Collect the sample from the same location(s) each time.** The water should be free of substantial debris or sediment. If you have disturbed the sediment, wait for the turbidity to settle before collecting your test sample. Some waterbodies can be reached from the shore, while others may require boots or waders. **However you reach the water, make sure you do it safely!** Bringing a field partner is always a good idea.

## INTERPRETING THE TEST STRIP



Each horizontal line on the test strip marks **0.2 Quantab units**. Record the unit closest to the tip of the white peak. Do not extrapolate between units. *The strip in the example indicates a result of 2.6 Quantab units.*

Each lot of test strips requires a unique calibration table to convert the Quantab unit into **parts per million (ppm) of chloride**. Lot numbers are printed on the bag of test strips and attached conversion table - be sure that the lots match!

## DATA SUBMISSIONS

Please be precise with your monitoring location by zooming in closely on the map to drop your pin or by copy/pasting the same coordinates each time. Keeping names and email addresses consistent is also helpful. Even if you keep measuring the same results, please continue to share your data with us! **All data is important to help us understand the effects of winter salting in your region of New Jersey.**



[njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch](http://njwatershedwatch.org/saltwatch)



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