

WAV Baseline Stream Monitoring Kit: Purchasing Guide

Last updated: December 2023

Questions? Found a better or more affordable source for these items?
Please let us know! Email WAV staff at wav@extension.wisc.edu.



Monitoring parameter	Item	Cost per unit	Supplier
Biotic index; Stream flow; Habitat assessment	D-frame aquatic net <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get with minimum of 500 micron (μm) mesh to trap small macroinvertebrates Wood or aluminum handle. Write on depth measurements (10ths feet) with a sharpie to measure stream depths. For aluminum handle nets, write depth measurements on electrical tape. 	\$112 - \$173	Forestry Suppliers (Stock #53770 or #53788) Fisher Scientific (Stock #S85027)
Biotic index	White basin	\$2.32	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Biotic index	White ice cube tray	\$2.74	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Biotic index	Magnifying glass	\$2.78	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Biotic index	Plastic tweezers, pipettes, plastic spoons, other picking tools	\$2.16	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Dissolved oxygen	Hach Dissolved Oxygen Test Kit Model OX-2P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One kit comes with enough chemicals for 100 tests. Kit does not come with Starch Indicator Solution (optional). 	\$137	Hach Company (Product #146900)
Dissolved oxygen	Starch Indicator Solution (for Hach D.O. Test Kit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase in 100ml bottles or in bulk 1L bottle to get a lower cost. Will need to purchase small 15-30ml plastic dropper bottles if buying the bulk Starch solution container. 	\$28	Hach Company (Product #34953)
Dissolved oxygen	Safety glasses	\$1.81	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Stream flow; Habitat assessment	Measuring tape reel (50 or 100 foot length) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have units in decimal feet (i.e. 10ths feet) 	\$18 - \$28	Forestry Suppliers (Stock #39968) Grainger (Stock #3LJU4)
Stream flow	Calculator (<i>or use smartphone/tablet</i>)	\$0 - \$3	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Stream flow	Stopwatch (<i>or use smartphone/tablet</i>)	\$0 - \$3	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Stream flow	Tennis ball	\$0.35	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Stream flow; Habitat assessment; General	Wire flags (6 pack)	\$0.08	<i>many options – prices vary</i>
Transparency	Transparency (turbidity) tube <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be 120cm 	\$55 - \$67	School Specialty (#531557) Forestry Suppliers (#77292)

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Monitoring parameter	Item	Cost per unit	Supplier
Water temperature	Thermometer <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purchase with units in Celsius.Get with the armor case to prevent breaking the glass in the stream.	\$10 - \$15	Forestry Suppliers (Stock #77141) ; Cabela's (SKU #36126000)
General	Backpack <ul style="list-style-type: none">A 17 inch size or larger will hold all kit items.	\$3 - \$7	Wholesale Stockroom BagsInBulk
General; Aquatic Invasive Species	Boot brush <ul style="list-style-type: none">WAV uses horse hoof picks to clean boots and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.	\$0.00	Wisconsin DNR/UW Extension AIS Program (free)
	Total	\$375	Total cost does not include taxes and shipping.

Other notes and tips:

- Many items have a cheaper unit price if items are bought in bulk.
- Some of the larger or more specialty items may be temporarily out of stock or experience delays. Plan to order far ahead of time.
- Programs and organizations with a larger budget for water quality monitoring may consider investing in a multi-parameter handheld meter, such as those sold by [Oakton](#), [YSI](#), and [Hanna](#).
- Online water quality monitoring suppliers include but are not limited to:
 - Hach Company: <https://www.hach.com/>
 - Forestry Suppliers: <https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>
 - School Specialty: <https://www.schoolspecialty.com/>
 - Ward's Science: <https://www.wardsci.com/store/>
 - Fondriest Environmental: <https://www.fondriest.com/>
 - Grainger: <https://www.grainger.com/>
 - Fisher Scientific: <https://www.fishersci.com/us/en/home.html>
 - Cabela's: <https://www.cabelas.com/shop/en#>