



Welcome to our lending program!

Your library is helping your community explore freshwater science and take part in hands-on environmental monitoring. The Compact Kit lets your patrons test local waters safely, easily, and meaningfully.

This program is a partnership between Ocean Week Canada and Water Rangers, a Canadian non-profit dedicated to connecting communities with their local waterways through water quality testing. By lending this kit, your library becomes a hub for water literacy and stewardship, helping people understand water quality and the importance of protecting freshwater and ocean ecosystems.

Why it matters

- Freshwater monitoring helps communities detect changes in their local lakes and rivers.
- It gives patrons a safe, hands-on way to engage with science.
- It contributes to open data that informs researchers, local organizations, and decision-makers.

Testkit host responsibilities

As a testkit host, you're responsible for ensuring everyone who borrows the kit has a great experience by making sure all elements are included, clean and ready to use.

Explore the kit: Get to know the testkit so you can answer patrons' questions!

You can read the guide inside and watch our 7-minute training video ([waterrangers.com/compact](https://www.waterrangers.com/compact)).

Safety: Activities near water carry inherent risks, including slippery surfaces, unstable banks, and changing conditions. As the host organization, your library is responsible for ensuring borrowers understand these risks and choose safe locations. Water Rangers provides the kit for educational use and is not liable for injury, damage, or loss during its use. You can find our safety guidelines at [waterrangers.com/safety](https://www.waterrangers.com/safety).



Create a Library Account

We suggest all libraries provide a single login for users to record data. As many will be only testing once, this smooths out their experience and gives libraries visibility on what lenders have done.

Go to data.waterrangers.com

1. Create an account for your library using a generic email. All people borrowing the kit will use this login to share data.
2. Join the organization "Library lending program".
3. Find the dataset with your library name. Ask to join it.
4. Write the Username and Password on the postcard in the kit for patrons and record it below for your own records.

Email: _____

Password: _____





How to support testkit lending

Encourage patrons to:

- Choose a safe testing location (see tips below)
- Follow the Field Guide carefully
- Take their time to observe and upload data accurately

Checking the kit back in

- Make sure all items are present and in good condition
- Check that everything is clean and dry

Packing for the next patron

- Repack all items neatly in the kit according to the photo, ensuring that **everything is dry** and restocking with 5 test strips, a sticker, and 2-3 note sheets on the clipboard.
- Ensure the **Field guide** and **instruction postcard** are in the kit.



Tips

- **Create safe testing locations close by** so that patrons know where to go to test. Testing the same place multiple times gives us a better understanding of the water's health there. **TIP: Include a small map with directions to your local testing spot!**
- **Only include 5 test strips in the kit.** Your kit includes 50 strips. Place the small blue container with 5 strips for regular use inside. A larger refill bottle is also included so you can restock the small container as needed. This helps protect the remaining strips in case the small container is accidentally dropped or comes into contact with water.
- **Add in a sticker!** We've sent you 20 stickers. You can include one in the kit when it's being lent out or give one to people when they return the kit!
- **Calibration** for the conductivity meter should happen every 6 months or if you notice errors.

Need more supplies?

Head over to waterrangers.com/store to restock your kit. You can buy teststrips, stickers, and calibration solution for your conductivity meter. You can download resources (observation sheets and postcards) from waterrangers.com/library.

Questions?

If you have any comments about the kit or questions for us, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to contact@waterrangers.ca