

GET WET!

<http://www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch/outreach/GetWet/index.htm>

Title:

Laboratory analyses, safety, and environmental quality.

Objective:

The core objective of GET WET! is teaching students and their communities about drinking water. School experiments (students testing drinking water) are a necessary part of this project and we continually look for methods that minimize generation of wastes.

Protocol:

When we help students test their drinking water we follow good laboratory practices:

- Students are taught proper personal hygiene (goggles, gloves, and hand washing).
- Students are taught proper handling of the apparatus and chemicals.
- Adults oversee activities at each analytical work station to insure that safety rules are followed and to provide assistance as necessary.
- Quantities of potentially harmful substances in the reagent packets are at very low concentrations and are acceptable for routine laboratory use.
- Prepared reagent packets are used to minimize potential for accidental spills.
- Analyses are performed in self contained work spaces (e.g. trays).
- Waste liquids are very dilute and may be collected for disposal in accordance with school policies. Using our methods, the concentrations of reagents in the waste liquid will be below current regulatory limits.
- Waste solids may be disposed in accordance with school policies.
- Residual reagents in used foil packs present no extraordinary risk.
- Clippers or scissors used to open packets should be washed after use.
- Work surfaces are washed with soap and water at the completion of the work session.

