

## TIPS FOR USE AND CARE OF THE TRITON TURBIDITY WEDGE

*Congratulations* on your purchase of a Triton Turbidity Wedge. If properly used and cared for, this simple water quality tool will provide you with reliable, instantaneous measures of turbidity in effluent and natural watercourses for years to come. The Triton Turbidity Wedge is simple to use and instructions are included on the back of each unit.

- 1) Fill the Wedge to the **top** with the water sample and view the scale looking **horizontally** through the water column. Use the etched lines on the sidewall to ensure you are taking a level reading.
- 2) Determine visual clarity (1 to 20 cm), as the highest number visible on the scale. Refill the Wedge and repeat your measurement twice to estimate the average visual clarity.
- 3) Estimate turbidity using the conversion graph printed on the back of each unit.

A user data area is also included on the Wedge in order that information pertinent to current work may be temporarily printed on the instrument. This can be done with a fine permanent marker and removed with the discrete use of acetone if and when it requires revision.

**Note:** confine contact with the acetone to the graphics face as it could cause permanent damage or discolouration to other parts of the instrument.

Consistent readings with the Wedge depend on relatively consistent ambient light conditions. Paired samples should be taken under such conditions. Avoid making readings in direct sunlight but if you must take them in such conditions, take one facing the sun at an oblique orientation of about 45° and average this against another reading taken with the sun shining from behind at a similar orientation.

**To Care** for your Triton Turbidity Wedge, simply rinse it out after each use to avoid accumulation of particulate matter. Wash only with water, mild liquid detergent and a soft cloth. Most importantly, always protect the viewing window of the Wedge, as scratching of the wall could affect your readings.

### *Some general tips on water quality sampling:*

- Always take care when sampling natural watercourses, making safety the first priority.
- To determine the impact of a point source on water quality, always take paired samples upstream (background) and downstream (effects) of the point of interest. Ensure you have isolated the water quality of the point of interest from other inflows or activities.
- When taking corresponding samples upstream and downstream of a point, always sample downstream first to avoid affecting subsequent readings. When collecting the water sample, enter the stream and move upstream so your disturbance of the stream bottom does not affect your sample.
- Always try to collect representative samples from the centroid of any flow, and avoid back-eddy areas. Take several measurements for reliable estimates. Water samples are most useful for assessing impacts where substantial differences occur upstream and downstream of a point.