

## Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Gear

Updated June 2026

For each monitoring team, you will want the following gear.

Overall note: Nets should range from 800-1000 µm mesh

| Item                                             | 2026 Price    | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Notes                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D-Frame Collection Net Option 1                  | \$240         | <a href="https://www.coleparmer.com/p/wildco-d-frame-aquatic-dip-nets/54689?Ntt=D-frame+Multifilament+500+Um+(epa)+Net">https://www.coleparmer.com/p/wildco-d-frame-aquatic-dip-nets/54689?Ntt=D-frame+Multifilament+500+Um+(epa)+Net</a> | Wooden handle, expensive, but likely to last.                                |
| D-Frame Collection Net Option 2                  | \$160         | <a href="https://store.sciencefirst.com/d-frame-w-shroud-800x900-with-52-handle-and-frame">https://store.sciencefirst.com/d-frame-w-shroud-800x900-with-52-handle-and-frame</a>                                                           | Standard D net                                                               |
| Tri-Frame Collection Net Option 3                | \$160         | <a href="https://store.sciencefirst.com/tri-net-800x900mm-w-52-hndl-net-with-52-handle">https://store.sciencefirst.com/tri-net-800x900mm-w-52-hndl-net-with-52-handle</a>                                                                 | Triangular net                                                               |
| Waders                                           | \$50–125      | Amazon or sporting goods stores                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Get several sizes. Chest waders can last many years with proper care.        |
| A container to hold most of the team's equipment | \$10-25       | Hardware stores or general merchandise stores                                                                                                                                                                                             | 5 gallon buckets are standard, but a variety of bins can serve this purpose. |
| Sorting Trays option 1 (small white tray)        | \$20–40       | Amazon or appliance stores                                                                                                                                                                                                                | White trays 2–4 inches deep. Four trays per 4-5 person team.                 |
| Sorting Tray option 2 (Refrigerator Tray)        | \$20-\$60     | Stores that sell refrigerators.<br><a href="https://www.homedepot.com/b/Appliances/Pan/N-5yc1vZbv1wZ1z1bx9p">https://www.homedepot.com/b/Appliances/Pan/N-5yc1vZbv1wZ1z1bx9p</a>                                                          | Very large trays useful for 2-3 people at a time                             |
| Featherweight Forceps                            | \$6.50 each   | Scientific supply companies, for example:<br><a href="https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/p/53809/53021/forceps">https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/p/53809/53021/forceps</a>                                                              | At least three per field group.                                              |
| Eye Droppers                                     | \$3.99 for 20 | Amazon, Rienar White 3 ML Plastic Eye Dropper<br><a href="https://www.amazon.com/Rienar-Disposable-Transfer-Graduated-Pipettes/dp/B00P7QZDK4">https://www.amazon.com/Rienar-Disposable-Transfer-Graduated-Pipettes/dp/B00P7QZDK4</a>      | Plastic droppers can be trimmed to enlarge openings.                         |

|                        |             |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specimen Jars          | \$0.40 each | The Cary Company<br><a href="https://www.thecarycompany.com/2-oz-38mm-38-400-natural-pp-jar">https://www.thecarycompany.com/2-oz-38mm-38-400-natural-pp-jar</a>  | 2 oz plastic jars with airtight seals.                                                                                                                     |
| Lids for Jars          | \$0.40 each | MJS Packaging<br><a href="https://www.mjspackaging.com/product/phenolic-bakelite-closures/">https://www.mjspackaging.com/product/phenolic-bakelite-closures/</a> | These lids fit Cary jars well. Be sure to get Polyseal/Polycone to prevent evaporation.<br><br>(Don't order the lids from Cary Company; the fit is loose). |
| Soft-bristle brush     | \$4-6       | General merchandise stores                                                                                                                                       | Useful for scrubbing rocks and branches.                                                                                                                   |
| Ice Cube Trays         | \$5-10      | General merchandise stores                                                                                                                                       | Optional for field sorting.                                                                                                                                |
| Reusable water bottles | \$2-10      | Donations or stores                                                                                                                                              | Helpful for rinsing samples and debris.                                                                                                                    |
| Tarps/plastic sheeting | \$20        | Hardware stores                                                                                                                                                  | Optional seating area for volunteers.                                                                                                                      |
| Garbage bags           | \$10-20     | General merchandise stores                                                                                                                                       | Optional trash collection.                                                                                                                                 |

## Decontamination Kit Contents

The following equipment represents the minimum decontamination supplies.

| Item                                                            | Typical Price |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Three to five-gallon bucket                                     | \$5-10        |
| Lint roller                                                     | \$2-4         |
| Spray bottle for diluted bleach or Formula 409 (8 oz or larger) | \$1-5         |
| Spray bottle for tap water (16 oz or larger)                    | \$1-5         |
| Soft-bristled scrub brush                                       | \$4-6         |
| Hoof pick                                                       | \$5-10        |

## **Other Gear to Have Handy**

Optional equipment and supplies useful for monitoring activities.

- Ethanol (70%) preservative
- Reel-style measuring tapes
- Yardsticks
- 5-6% household bleach (replace yearly)

## **Macroinvertebrate Bibliography**

- Voshell, J.R. Jr. 2002. A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America.
- Bouchard, R.W. Jr. 2004. Guide to Aquatic Invertebrates of the Upper Midwest.
- Hilsenhoff, W.L. 1995. Aquatic Insects of Wisconsin.
- Merritt, R.W. and Cummins, K.W. An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America, 5th ed.