

Comprehensive Tap Water Analysis



The chemistry of tap water varies greatly across the United Kingdom as a result of local geology and hydrology, as well as differing sourcing techniques, pipes and processing technologies employed by water companies. These factors help to explain the differing taste of tap water discernible across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We all depend upon tap water every day, but have you ever wondered what it is actually made up of beyond H_2O itself?

Through this activity, we'll discover the answer by analysing the micro-concentrations of minerals, chemical and other substances in tap water samples from across the UK!

Your school can take part in this UK-wide study. Unlike all of the other activities in the Great British Water Box project, highly specialised equipment is required for this project so we invite you to send a sample of your tap water which we intend to have professionally analysed in order to build a picture of water chemistry across the country.

Participation in this project is entirely free of charge. All you need to do is send us a sample of your tap water (please follow the steps overleaf). We will then share the results with you in due course.





To take part, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Unpack the Great British Water Box. Inside you will find:

- A 500ml bisphenol (BPA) free water sample bottle.
- A sample label.
- A packaging box (with stamp and return address affixed) and two bubble wrap bags.

Step 2: Turn on the tap from which you wish to sample tap water. Allow the tap to run for 20 seconds, then fill the bottle with tap water and seal the lid tightly.

Step 3: Fill in the details on the label and affix this to the bottle. Don't forget to write your school's name and postcode, so we can identify which sample came from your school!

Step 4: Place the bottle into one of the bubble wrap bags and place in the box. Use the other bubble wrap bag to fill the space within the box.

Step 5: Seal the box with a little sticky tape to ensure the sample is secure.

Step 6: The box already has postage stamps affixed, so just post it back to us. We ask for all samples to be received by **August 30th, 2021**.

The great British Water Project team will then do the rest! We'll organise for your sample to be comprehensively analysed and will then share the results with you in due course, so you can discover how your tap water compares with other samples from across the UK!

The analysis process will take several months for all samples to be processed, but we'll send announcements by email to update you on progress.

It will be really interesting to discover how tap water varies nationwide and any trends connected to the preferences for tap water revealed the taste test activity!

Note: by participating in the Great British Water Project activities and submitting data that you collect to us, you are consenting to the use of the data to be displayed publicly, including on our interactive maps in connection to your school (see www.hansonbox.org/water). No personal data is collected through the Great British Water Project (and none will be displayed).

