

Fieldmaster® Plankton Nets

Warranty and Parts:

All products guaranteed free from defect for 90 days. This guarantee does not include accident, misuse, or normal wear and tear. We accept most major credit cards, checks, and institutional purchase orders.

Sampling Procedures:

Fieldmaster Plankton Nets can be used in many field conditions. They are most often towed horizontally from a boat, but they can also be used for vertical sampling and sometimes even in shallow water.

When working with students, it is always wise to attach the line to something sturdy, to check all knots, and to make sure the sample bottle is screwed on tightly.

Horizontal tows can be done from the shore if you attach a line to the swivel ring and toss the net offshore. Pull it in at a steady pace. Another easy method for sampling from shore is to attach the net to a telescoping pole such as a painter's pole. For horizontal tows using a boat or raft, tightly tie a line to the swivel ring. Make sure you tie the other end of the line to the boat. It works best if you fill the bottle with water first. This can be done from the outside of the mesh so you don't accidentally add plankton to your sample. A small weight can be added to the line to help it sink lower.

If you are planning to use the net for vertical sampling, tightly tie a line to the swivel ring. It is a good idea to attach the other end of the line to the boat. If sampling from a dock or pier, tie the rope to something sturdy. You can attach a small weight to help keep the net in an upright

position. Lower the net to the desired depth, then raise it at a slow and even pace.

Calibrated line can be used to determine the depth of vertical sampling. If you already have calibrated line, make sure the first calibration mark is measured from the net mouth (the large opening). If you wish to calibrate your own line, it is easiest to mark it before the sampling session. Attach the line securely to the swivel ring and measure from the net mouth for the first mark. Running the line down a long hallway simplifies the marking process.

For sampling in **shallow water**, hold the net ring vertical to the stream bed so that the water will flow through it. You can sample at several locations to get a full range of available plankton in the net. Be careful! The netting can be easily damaged. D-frame dip nets, kick nets, Zo seines and Surber Samplers are much better suited for this type of sampling.

Sample Transfer:

After the net is raised above the water, you can use a wash bottle to rinse any material clinging to the sides of the net down into the collection bottle. Another method is to keep the mouth of the net above water while raising the net up and down. Remove the collection bottle from the net and cap it to take to the lab for further study.

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Care, Cleaning, and Storage:

At the end of each sampling session, remove all debris from the net. Rinse thoroughly with fresh water and allow to air dry completely before storing. Air-drying should be done in a darkened or shady area out of direct sunlight. There should be ample air movement.

If you must travel before cleaning is possible, keep the net damp and free of debris. Rinse and air-dry it as soon as possible, preferably the same day. If stored wet, the net may mildew, which can damage the fabric. For mildew, use a mild hand detergent and a non-chlorine mildew remover for nylon. Rub gently as needed.

When cleaning the net, keep the cable connectors away from the mesh to avoid damage. You can fasten them to the net ring with a strong safety pin to keep them out of the way.

Algae, reeds, sedges, and other aquatic vegetation may cause "grass stains" on the net. Most detergents alone rarely remove grass stains or dried debris. A build-up of dried or fresh vegetation is best removed by sponging gently with ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol. When the debris is removed, try rinsing with vinegar to remove any remaining stains. Spray & Wash® Trigger Spray may also help (make sure that it does not contain chlorine bleach). Avoid other brands since they may contain ingredients that are harmful to the nets.

When sampling in hard water, calcium carbonate and other insoluble particles may build up and plug the apertures in the Nitex® netting. If this occurs, try soaking the net in a mild vinegar solution. Avoid commercially available products such as CLR® or Limeaway®, which may damage the net.

We do not recommend using chlorine bleach or any other chemicals not mentioned. This may destroy the nylon fabric.

After cleaning, rinse the net thoroughly and air-dry out of the sun.

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Extra Supplies Available:

- 7900-C27 Sample Bottle, 125 ml
- 7900-C25 Sample Bottles, 125 ml, pack of 12
- 7900-A122 Line and float: 20 meters of 1/8-inch line on a foam float
- 426-E50 Turtox® Line/Tow Weight, 4.5 oz
- 426-E20 Connector, Hose and Pinchcock to use in place of bottle
- 78-050 Mini-Surber Sampler, 6 inches high, 11 inch-long net
- 7900-D27 Wash Bottle, one-piece, 250 ml (8 oz)
- 7900-D57 Wash Bottle, one-piece, 500 ml (16 oz)
- 7900-D87 Wash Bottle, one-piece, 1000 ml (32 oz)

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