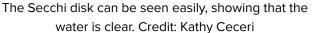# Down To Earth: Mission Rehydrate

Measure Water Clarity With A Secchi Disk

The Secchi disk can be seen easily, showing that the water is clear. Credit: Kathy Ceceri

The Secchi disk cannot be seen, indicating this water is contaminated. Credit: Kathy Ceceri

A Secchi disk is a simple tool used to check water clarity in a lake. You can use one with your filter:

1. Take a permanent marker or other thick, dark pen and draw a small box or circle no bigger than the width of the filter bottle on a piece of white paper. (Or use a template below.)
2. Divide the box in half each way, then color in two opposite quarters.
3. Pour some dirty water into a clear cup. Hold the Secchi disk, drawing up behind the cup.
4. Take a photo or video, or make a pencil sketch, for your data sheet that shows how clear the design looks through the cup.
5. Do the same with each batch of filtered water.