

How to keep invertebrates cool at events



Find a site where you can 'borrow' some invertebrates. Make sure you have landowner permission and the river is easily accessible. Remember to follow lone working protocols if you're catching on your own, ideally you should be doing this in pairs or a small group.



Carefully take a kick sample from the river first thing in the morning. Try not to kick too many stones or lots of sediment into the net.



Check your net for fish regularly - if you've caught any, make sure they're released straight away back into the river.



Transfer the invertebrates into a cool box, along with some water and some of the aquatic plants - make sure the cool box can be carried or wheeled along easily.



Add some cool packs to the cool box to keep the water nice and cold.



Collect some additional water and add cool packs to this too. This can be added to the cool box as soon as you reach your event location.

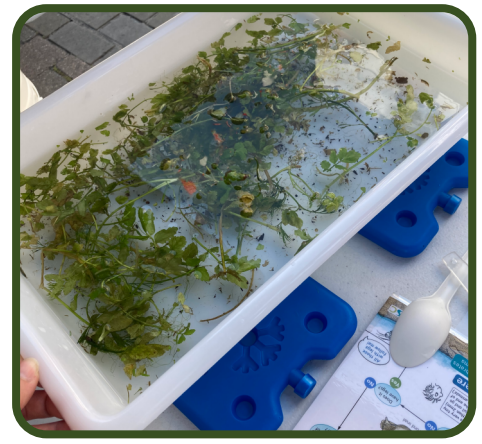




Make sure you set up the tables and trays in the shade. Keep an eye on the position of the sun as it moves throughout the day and adjust your set up if necessary - remember the white trays will also be bright to look at in direct sunlight.



If you find you have caught some fish, carefully transfer them back to the cool box rather than placing them in the trays - they will be much happier in here.



If it's particularly warm, add cool packs directly to the trays or position them underneath the trays to keep the water cool.



Make sure you leave some invertebrates in the cool box - rotate them round throughout the day so they can have a break from being identified.



Use buckets to swap the invertebrates over with those still in the cool box. If you have cool packs to spare, pop these into the cool box partway through the day.



Once you've finished the event and tidied everything away (taking care to remove all of the invertebrates from the trays and other equipment), take them back to the river where you caught them from. Carefully release them back into the water, making sure they are released low to the river and not from a height. Again, make sure you follow lone working protocols when doing this.



Wash all of the equipment off in the river to make sure all of the creatures find their way back into the water.



Make sure equipment is clean and dry for 48 hours before it's used again - disinfect equipment if you need to use it sooner at a different location.

