



LaMotte

SECCHI DISK

CODE 1062

The Secchi Disk is a white circular plastic plate, 20 cm in diameter that is used to determine the turbidity or degree of visibility in natural water. The Secchi Disk provides a very simple means of making transparency determinations in natural waters. A measured line is attached to the center of the disk by means of a special fitting that stabilizes the disk so that it will be parallel to the water's surface. Best results are obtained in the shadow of a boat or dock. The best readings are usually obtained after early morning and before late afternoon.

- 1.** Lower Secchi Disk (1062) into water until it just disappears. Read depth from calibrated line.
- 2.** Raise Secchi Disk until it just appears. Read depth from calibrated line.
- 3.** Add readings from Steps 1 and 2. Divide by 2. Record as Secchi Disk Transparency.

Water that is clear has a high transparency. Transparency usually decreases in the summer when plankton, silt and organic matter are more likely to be prevalent. The most transparent lakes are usually seepage lakes since the water is filtered before entering the lake, reducing silt bearing influents. Drainage lakes carry more silt and therefore are less transparent. For example, a drainage lake may be in a class of 1.0 to 1.4 m but a seepage lake in the same area may give readings of 3.0 to 4.0 m. A high reading in the class of 19 to 21m would indicate extreme clarity.

LaMotte Company

Helping People Solve Analytical Challenges®

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