



Check out what's in your backyard waterway – a fun family activity!

WHAT INVERTEBRATES ARE IN OUR WATERWAYS?

▶ What you need:

- 2 white containers (ice cream tubs work great!)
- A kitchen sieve
- A tablespoon
- Gumboots
- Critter identification card:
https://niwa.co.nz/sites/niwa.co.nz/files/A3_SHMAK_guide.pdf
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Data recording sheet (optional)

🔍 What to do:

1. Find a shallow creek. Take a minute to look at what's around. What can you see?
2. Fill your two containers half-full with stream water and place on the bank.
3. Carefully stand in the stream. Turn so you're facing downstream.
4. Keep your feet in one place and do the twist! Move the stones on the bottom of the stream.
5. As you see the murky water emerge, dip your sieve into the water and scoop towards you.
6. Empty the contents gently into the container and leave to settle.
7. Remove any twigs, leaves and rocks.
8. Using the spoon, carefully collect the critters and transfer them to the other container. (This will help you see them easily).
9. Use the identification cards to work out what critters you have in your waterway.
10. Remember to put the bugs back in the water after you have finished identifying them.
11. Want to look further into your waterway? The Rapid Habitat Assessment is a great tool! Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSEY-QL7TUQ>

